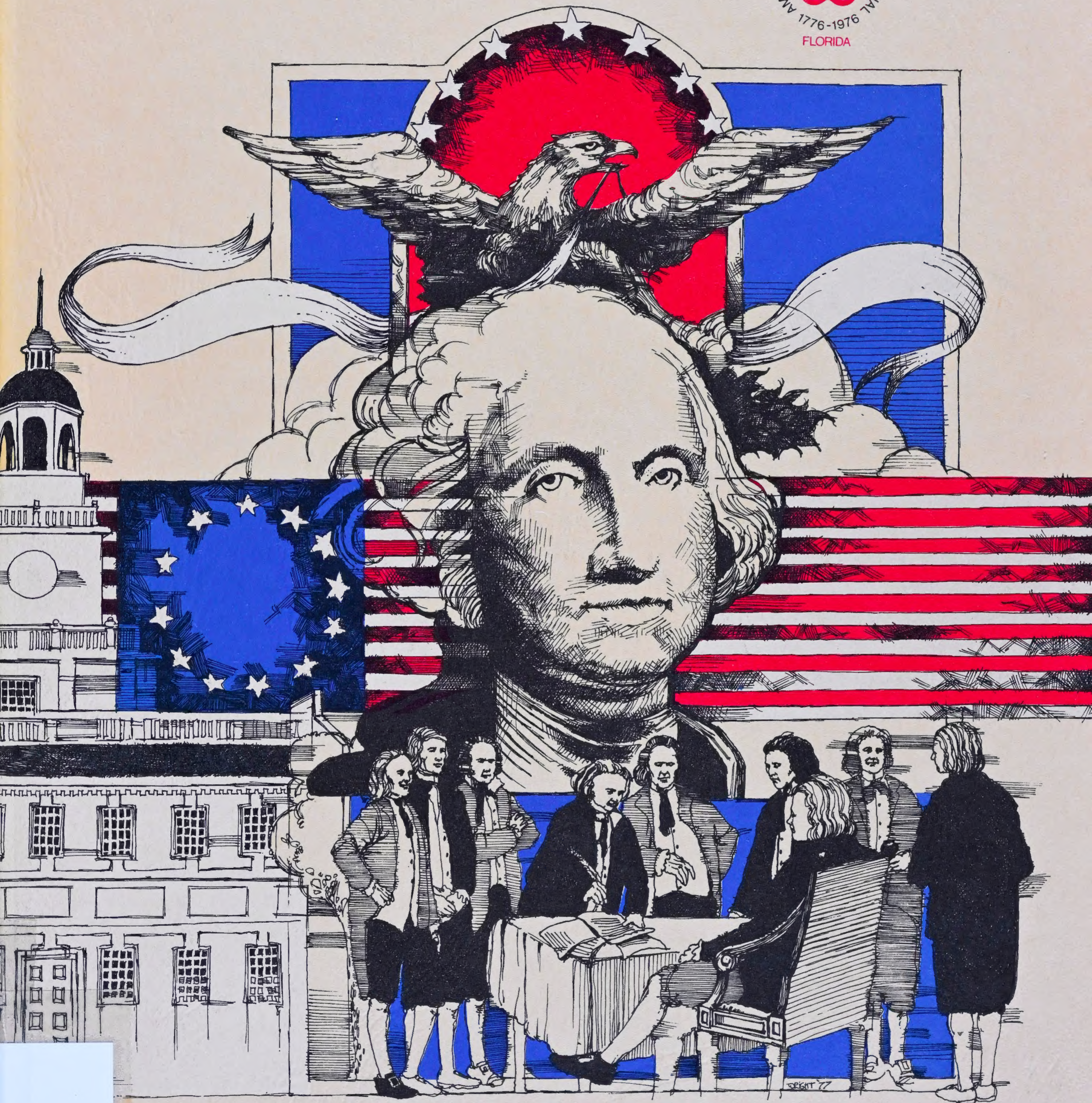


The Final Report of The Bicentennial Commission of Florida

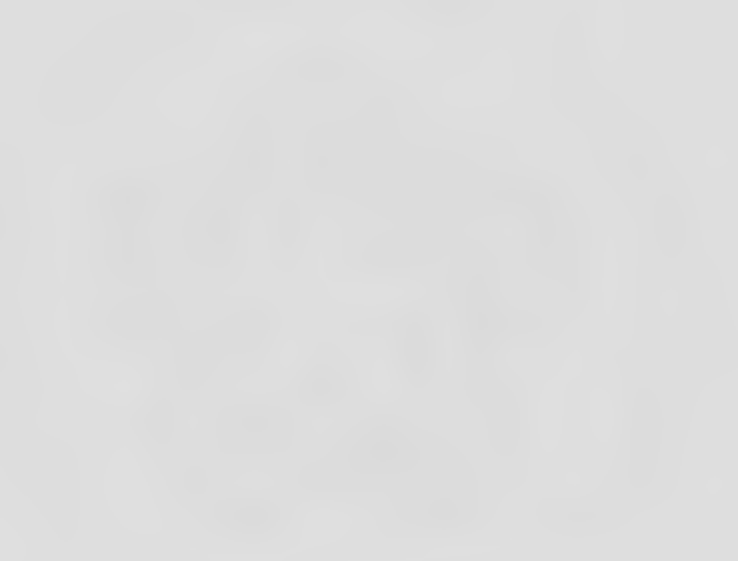


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The Final Report of
The Bicentennial Commission
of Florida



The Final Report of The Bicentennial Commission of Florida



The First Report
The International Commission
of Health

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BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Post Office Box 10207, Tallahassee, Florida 32302



GOVERNOR REUBIN O'D. ASKEW
Honorary Chairman
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR J. H. WILLIAMS
Chairman
WILLIAM R. ADAMS
Executive Director

Dear Governor Askew:

Established by legislation enacted in 1970, the Bicentennial Commission of Florida was charged with planning and developing the state's participation in the commemoration of the American Revolution.

As chairman of the Commission, I am pleased to transmit to you the final report, which documents the activities and projects carried out over the past six and a half years in fulfillment of that responsibility.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in Florida's commemoration of the national anniversary. I would also like to commend to you the members of the Commission and the many volunteers whose patriotism and dedication helped make Florida's Bicentennial observance an outstanding statewide celebration.

Sincerely,

J. H. Williams
Lieutenant Governor



FLORIDA

COMMISSION OF FLORIDA

Tallahassee, Florida 32302, Telephone 904/222-1776



GOVERNOR REUBIN O'D. ASKEW
Honorary Chairman
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR J. H. WILLIAMS
Chairman
WILLIAM R. ADAMS
Executive Director

The Bicentennial came at a depressing time, when debate over Vietnam had shaken the national will and scandal threatened the highest political institutions. By recalling their heritage, the celebration helped Americans reaffirm their fundamental ideals and regain their natural confidence. Thus, the legacy of the Bicentennial observance is a renewed optimism with which Americans begin their third century as a nation.

In Florida, the Bicentennial Commission hoped both to involve as many citizens as possible in the anniversary celebration and to achieve permanent benefits for the state out of the commemoration.

To those ends, it sponsored projects such as the Florida Bicentennial Trail, which tangibly illustrated the state's vivid past through carefully selected historic sites, and the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, which literally carried the celebration to all parts of the state. The Floridiana Facsimile Series made available for general use reprints of rare historical works and the Florida Bicentennial Symposia promoted scholarly research that shed new light on Florida at the time of the American Revolution. Schools Festival Week encouraged students in over 700 schools to commemorate the national anniversary.

The cornerstone of the observance, however, was the Action '76 community participation program. The Commission acted as a catalyst for Action '76 by providing guidance, administrative funds, and grants-in-aid for specific projects, while, in a grassroots effort, each of the sixty-seven county steering committees developed its own Bicentennial program incorporating the three national themes of Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. Many areas took the opportunity of the national celebration to record local history or to preserve historic buildings, often using the restored structures as community meeting houses or museums. New parks, recreational facilities, educational environmental centers, and other community improvement projects were also undertaken in order to enhance the quality of life. And there was scarcely a county in the whole state that did not boast special patriotic festivities that reawakened the traditional national pride.

Florida compiled a distinguished record of Bicentennial achievements that fully satisfied the Commission's original hopes for the observance. Thousands of volunteers and hundreds of organizations cooperated to produce a celebration that reached millions of citizens and whose projects will reverberate in enduring benefits for the state and local communities for years to come. We wish especially to commend the members of the Commission and the patriotic citizens whose dedication made the Bicentennial in Florida an outstanding success. This, the final report of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida, is the record of their extraordinary accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Governor

a past to remember / a future to mold



Preface

Florida Statute 13.9974 requires the Bicentennial Commission of Florida to submit a final report "on all phases of its activities" within a year following completion of the observance. Since the statute elaborates no further upon the contents of the report, presumably to satisfy the requirement the staff could have prepared and the Commission sanctioned a sterile litany of projects and activities with appropriate appendices.

There were, however, compelling reasons to produce a comprehensive account of the activities that attended Florida's part in the great American observance. First, the report should serve to assist Floridians who in the future will prepare analogous programs. Although an observance of the Bicentennial's magnitude probably will not be repeated for another century, other celebrations will occur. Those who plan them may draw valuable lessons from an account of the Commission's organization and activities.

Second, thousands of Floridians contributed their energy, skills, and time to the Bicentennial commemoration. They deserve full, official recognition of their extraordinary efforts.

Third, the Bicentennial generally received less media attention that it merited. That was especially true for local activities, which comprised a major part of the anniversary program. A detailed report can document the many substantive Bicentennial accomplishments so that future generations may realize what the celebration achieved.

Thus, this final report is more than a listing of Commission activities: It is, rather, a history of the Bicentennial observance in Florida. We dedicate it to Florida's Bicentennial workers, whose patriotism, community spirit, and selfless devotion to the spirit of the celebration were a constant source of awe and inspiration.

William R. Adams
Executive Director

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The Origins of the Bicentennial

Amid growing controversy over America's involvement in the seemingly interminable Vietnamese civil war, Congress enacted and President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation on July 4, 1966, that created the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission "to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial." The newly established Commission was given the challenging task of formulating specific plans for a national celebration and presenting a report to the president by 1968. Possessing neither funds nor direction, however, the embryonic organization accomplished little before the end of Johnson's troubled administration.

After some delay President Richard Nixon revived the Commission. Stanford University Chancellor J. E. Wallace Sterling was appointed chairman and under his leadership progress began. Goals and priorities were hammered out in numerous committee meetings and by July 4, 1970, Sterling was able to present a final report to the president.

The report delineated three guidelines for the Bicentennial celebration. It would involve the entire country; it would continue to 1987 with the focal year 1976 -- climaxing on July 4 of the latter year; and it would "be a time for Americans to review and reaffirm the basic principles on which the nation was founded." Of greater significance in the actual planning were the Commission enumerated themes of Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. Representing the past, present, and future, the three concepts were to be used later by state commissions and local groups in developing programs and events.

In another section of the report Miami was designated as one of the four cities that would receive special recognition during the Bicentennial era. It became clear to federal Bicentennial planners, however, that Americans were not prepared to endorse or support a program that would benefit four, select, eastern cities. People throughout America were determined to participate in the observance with or without Washington's sponsorship. Thus, after a lapse of several years and expenditure of considerable capital, the plan was shelved.



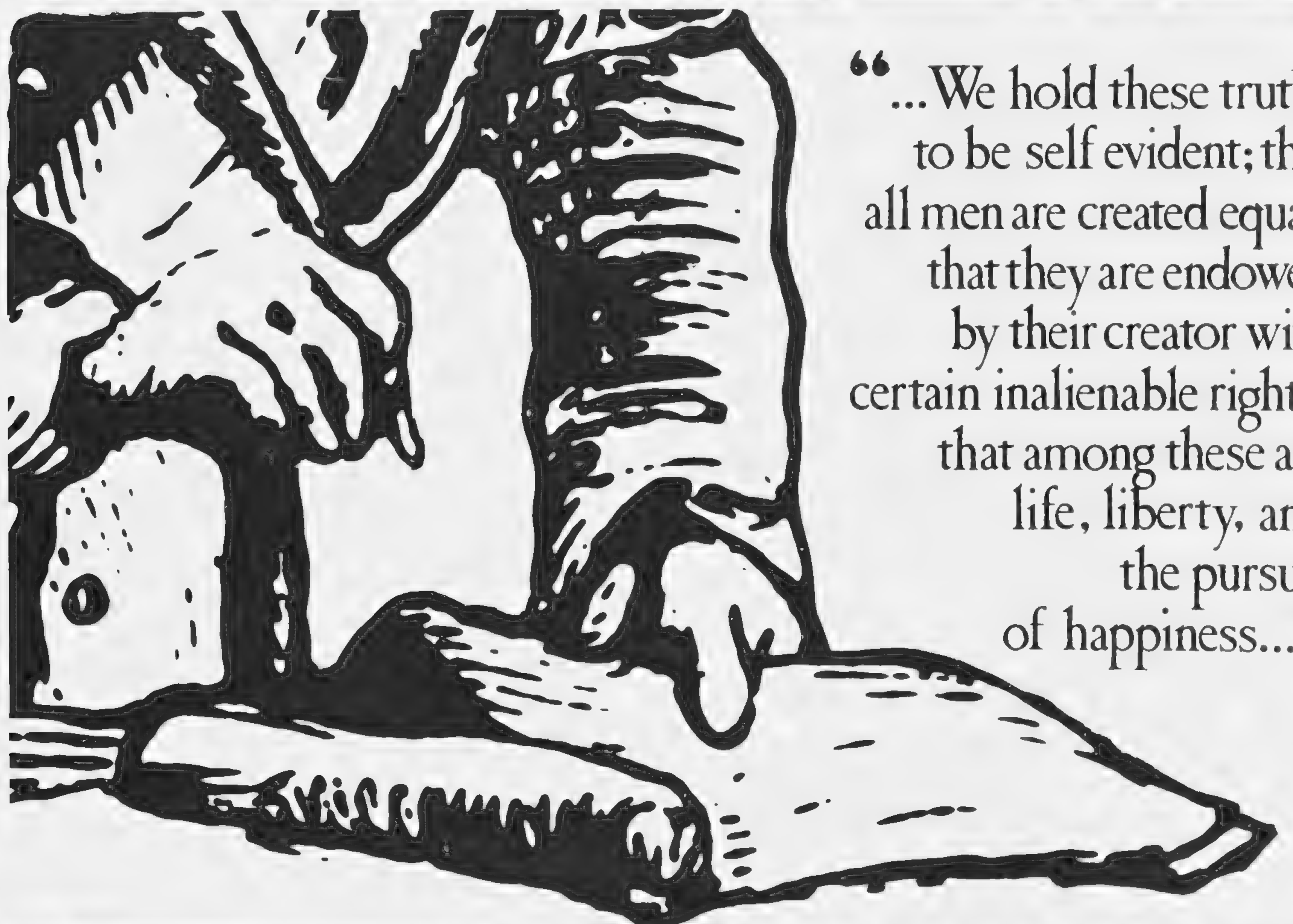
ARBC established ten regional offices, assisted forty-six state and territorial Bicentennial Commissions to establish functioning organizations, and adopted an official Bicentennial symbol. In February 1972, Congress enacted a bill authorizing a grants program that would provide \$45,000 annually to each state and territorial commission. Additional revenue was generated by royalty earnings from various ARBC programs, and eventually the Commission was able to distribute over \$500,000 to each of the states. But ARBC accomplished little else of substance. In the summer of 1972, critics charged that the agency, led by a forty-nine-member board of directors, had failed to develop any programs or ideas of lasting value and that it was embroiled in politics. So Congress abolished the unpopular agency in 1974 and at the same time passed presidentially supported legislation that established the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The new agency was created to oversee federal involvement in the Bicentennial and to encourage citizen participation. Some critics continued to charge that it failed to provide direction from Washington. But the American public had expressed a desire to make the Bicentennial a grass roots effort. They wanted only financial support and information from the federal administration. Belatedly, ARBA made some recovery from its earlier troubles, but time was too short to repair all of the damage that had been done. It did disseminate information to the states, and launched or accelerated many state programs. In Florida, ARBA officials attended many of the early meetings, providing the state commission with useful advice.

In fairness to ARBA, some people looked for far too much from the national Bicentennial effort, including major social reforms, urban renewal programs, and solutions to transportation problems, among others. They were hardly the kinds of problems that could be resolved in a few short years with meager funding. In the Bicentennial's waning months ARBA did counter some complaints by encouraging programs that included intellectual content, minority participation, and provided for community improvements. The grants program gave an impetus to the state organizations, while the Bicentennial Communities recognition program, the Johnny Horizons effort, and other programs stimulated volunteers to make community and social improvements.

ARBA presided over a truly glorious Fourth of July, 1976, in which for a weekend Americans forgot their problems and enjoyed a peaceful and traditional festival of celebration. The dignified, tranquil, and impressive events that took place on that day were hailed by many as a catharsis for the decade of troubles that had beset America between 1966 and 1976. And if the Bicentennial era -- with its appropriate climax in the summer of 1976 -- contributed to a renewed commitment and resolve on the part of all Americans, then it will have achieved more than could have been expected.

Shortly after that signal date, ARBA began preparations to close its own offices. On July 1, 1977, all remaining ARBA functions were turned over to the Department of Interior.



“...We hold these truths to be self evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”

Florida Establishes a Commission

Some three years after the passage of the initial Bicentennial legislation the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission hosted a meeting in Washington which delegates from all the states were invited to attend. Mr. Pat Dodson, a prominent Pensacola businessman, was sent to represent Florida. At that 1969 meeting Dodson listened to national Bicentennial officials urge Florida and other states to establish their own commissions. Working under the guidance of the national organization, these still-to-be-formed agencies would formulate appropriate programs and commemorative activities within each state.

A few months after the Washington conference, Dodson reported to Governor Kirk and recommended that he create a Bicentennial steering committee composed of various professionals. Such a committee was established and given the task of drafting an appropriate bill for introduction in the Florida legislature. Some time before the start of the 1970 session, members of the South Florida Bicentennial Commission -- which included several influential people from the Miami area -- notified the large Dade County delegation that they supported the legislation. Their backing helped the act to move rapidly through various House and Senate committees. In early June the legislature gave it unanimous approval. Governor Kirk added his signature shortly thereafter, and the Bicentennial Commission of Florida officially became a functioning state agency.

The new Commission was to be composed of five members each from the House and Senate, seven high-level administrators, and ten citizens.^{1*} The governor, who served as honorary chairman, appointed the last group of people for terms varying from one to four years. His prerogatives included the right to appoint the Commission chairman. In practice, the lieutenant governor performed that responsibility. The enabling legislation broadly defined Commission work and stated that its activities should be concentrated in the following areas:

- (1) To coordinate its efforts with those of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and to cooperate with that agency in development of an effective national observance of the bicentennial.
- (2) To plan an overall program for commemorating the bicentennial on a statewide basis in an effective and significant manner, including participation by all cities, counties and regions, coordinating all such plans with any programs which may be developed by local governments or other recognized organizations; however, the position of the commission shall be advisory only and not managerial in relation to local observances.
- (3) To cooperate with the Miami bicentennial committee which has been organized by the greater Miami chamber of commerce, or any other appropriate body in Dade County, to plan the proposed international exposition at that city; to assist such authorities in achieving an international recognition of said exposition as a key primary attraction of the national celebration.
- (4) To cooperate with commissions or similar planning groups which have been or may be established by other states for the bicentennial, to the end that the observances may open a new era of progress and development for the nation while offering also a reverent commemoration and reexamination of the historic significance of the American Revolution.
- (5) The commission shall determine, by selecting from a list made available to it by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management and by the Fine Arts Council of Florida of the Department of State, the sites, artifacts, buildings, significant fine and commercial arts, monuments, structures and other evidence of our cultural heritage within the state which are appropriate for preservation or development in commemoration of the American Revolution or other historical events, to ensure that fitting observances and exhibits are held at the sites during the bicentennial celebration.
- (6) The president of each state university shall cooperate with the commission, especially in the encouragement, coordination, and publicity of scholarly works and presentations on the history, culture, political thought and commemoration of the American Revolution.
- (7) Libraries, archives, museums, and historical depositories operating with state funds shall cooperate with the commission, especially in the development and display of exhibits and collections and in the development of inventories, catalogs and other material relevant to the period of the American Revolution.
- (8) The commission shall suggest that every Floridian consider ways to assist this commemorative effort in the light of the love he bears his country and in light of the gratitude he feels it proper to manifest in return for the bounteous advantages of American life and citizenship.

* All footnotes located on Page 165.

Other sections of the statute dealt with the mechanics of implementing Commission responsibilities. The fledgling organization was empowered to hire an executive director and needed "technical, administrative and other personnel", including the authority to "contract for technical or special services." The Department of Commerce was assigned to provide personnel and assistance to the Commission.² No money was initially appropriated for the agency and until this problem was resolved in 1971 business was conducted on an extremely tenuous basis, with the first staff and office space furnished by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. Still, with high hopes, the Commission held its first meeting in December 1970.

Amid the august surroundings of the historic state Capitol building, Chairman Pat Dodson, then the director of administration in the state Department of Transportation called the inaugural session to order on December 18, 1970. Besides out-going Governor Kirk, the honorary Chairman of the Commission, most of the statutory members and newly appointed commissioners were present. They agreed that the Florida program should involve more than merely staging spectacles. "We are certainly not talking about a great big national carnival in 1976, in which when it's all over, you pick up the trash and tear down the buildings and nothing has really happened," Pat Dodson told his colleagues. And as each commissioner talked briefly about agency objectives it became apparent that they were interested in substantive goals that would result in permanent benefits to the community. The highly enthusiastic meeting finally ended with Dodson asking the participants to correspond with him regarding the establishment of appropriate committees.

The next meeting was held in Tampa in early February 1971. The Commissioners first unanimously approved the appointment of General W. E. Potter (then vice president of Disney World) and Senator Robert Williams (director of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management) as vice chairman and secretary-treasurer respectively.⁴ The Commission then turned to the important business of committee formation and were advised by Chairman Dodson that he had tentatively established six committees: Research and Publication, Historic Sites and Properties, Legislation, Buildings, Exhibits and Design, Local Participation, and Resources. These last two were soon combined into one committee and eventually their work was transferred to local committees.⁵

A few weeks later the Executive Committee met and defined more precisely the roles of each committee. Subsequently these bodies developed and supervised the implementation of what became major Commission programs. The Research and Publications Committee, for instance, secured Commission approval for the publication of a number of rare books dealing with various aspects of Florida history. This committee also developed the idea of sponsoring an annual Bicentennial symposium on Florida history. Ultimately five such conferences were held on campuses throughout the state. In 1976 the American Association for State and Local History presented an Award of Merit to the Commission for that work.

The Buildings, Exhibits and Design Committee proposed the development of a traveling exhibit of Florida related material, which upon completion toured the entire state with frequent stops in small communities. The exhibit probably had its greatest impact on relatively isolated communities in rural areas.

A grandiose proposal was submitted by the Historic Sites and Properties Committee. It initially requested over a million dollars from the Commission to use in the development of thirty historically significant state sites. The committee intended that the sites would eventually comprise a statewide Bicentennial Trail and serve as points of interest for residents and visitors. The Commission eventually approved a program that involved the development of several of the most important sites and properties, which were incorporated with already developed sites to form the revised Bicentennial Trail. The Commission also subsidized the research and publication of a guidebook (*A Heritage Revisited*) which locates and describes the fifty-two sites on the Trail. The Bicentennial Trail will remain in existence for the foreseeable future and is only part of the legacy that the Commission will leave behind for future generations.

In its first year the Commission faced the task of securing funds from the legislature. As the 1971 session approached a budget of \$150,000 was prepared. Everyone connected with the Commission realized that it would be difficult to obtain an appropriation of that size and had started to lobby vigorously when Dr. Elton Gissendanner of Miami suggested an alternate method of funding agency activities. He proposed that each dog, horse, and harness track and jai-alai fronton be permitted to operate an extra day each season and that the state income from the performance be earmarked for the Bicentennial Commission. Miami legislators were induced to support the measure with a Commission promise that a certain percentage of any monies so raised would be given to the then embryonic Interama project. With the Miami delegation's crucial support, the act passed and was signed by the governor in late June.⁶ Between 1971 and 1977 nearly \$4,000,000 was raised in this manner, most of which was used to support county projects.⁷ The Commission also received approximately \$525,000 in federal grants and derived some additional revenue from various commemorative items.

A director was hired in the summer of 1971 and the staff was increased yearly until 1976.⁸ The Commission placed major emphasis on local Bicentennial activities of lasting benefit, ensuring that in Florida the Bicentennial era, instead of lapsing into meaningless festivals of celebration, would leave indelible marks of achievement upon the state.

The Commission and County Bicentennial Organizations

In May 1971, three members of the Commission attended a regional meeting of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission for the southwestern states. Among the items on the agenda was a presentation by a group of citizens of the Goals-for-Dallas program, which was designed to increase participation at the local level. A few days later, the conferees reported on the Dallas program to the Commission, which informally agreed upon an attempt to implement the plan in Florida. At the same time that these plans were germinating, the city of Pensacola was becoming interested in formulating ways in which it could most effectively participate in the Bicentennial era. Chairman Pat Dodson of Pensacola suggested that the Commission award a \$10,000 matching grant to the city for use in financing a pilot program in Escambia County.



The culmination of Bicentennial activities was the traditional Independence Day parade.

After the Commission had formally approved the grant, the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce agreed to manage the project, and a staff member, Warren Briggs, was designated program chairman. Briggs organized a steering committee composed of thirteen local leaders, who began to wrestle with the problem of establishing community priorities. They decided to call the program "Action '76" and hoped to involve all segments of the community in their planning. Some ten committees were formed and met jointly and separately over the next few months.⁹ A number of goals for improvement of Pensacola and Escambia County were identified and presented for possible action during the Bicentennial era. They subsequently issued a final report, *Procedures Developed by Action '76 Pensacola-Escambia County for the American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976*, which outlined a model program that some Florida communities adopted and which the Commission used in its own recommendations to county organizational groups.

Meeting at Miami Beach in late January 1972, the commissioners focused on community participation and agreed on the following general principles:

That the solicitation of local participation should primarily be a staff function, but that at least one Commission member should attend each public meeting held in any community for this purpose; that these public meetings should be organized at our request, but on a local basis, probably by the mayor, county commission chairman, or Chamber of Commerce; that members of the local groups be chosen locally, but that we provide a checklist of groups, organizations, professions, etc., that should always be represented; that Bicentennial kits be organized and printed for distribution to all Commission and staff members to assure consistency in describing the Commission's policies, guidelines, and goals; that this kit should contain a document setting forth the three Bicentennial themes and suggesting means of carrying them out on the local level; that preparation of this kit be contracted for with a competent firm or individual to be selected by the Chairman after reviewing suggestions of committee chairmen; that cities and counties be encouraged to adopt projects that will provide lasting values and contribute to the improvement and welfare of their communities; that the Commission will assist the communities in obtaining needed planning and other professional assistance; that the Pensacola community improvement program be considered for designation as a basic model, subject to expansion by Commission committees; that existing festivals will be asked to adopt Bicentennial themes for their 1976 presentation, but that the establishment of new festivals will not be encouraged; that the larger cities will be contacted first; that the local groups be given the same 'Action '76' designation as adopted by Pensacola.

In a subsequent meeting it was agreed that the Local Participation and Resources Committee would still formulate policy, but all other matters would be handled by the Commission staff.

Organization of Action '76 committees proceeded slowly at first. In the first three years only seven counties established such committees; but in the next two years (1973-74), fifty-eight counties set up functioning groups. Organization in the later years was partially facilitated by the infectious enthusiasm engendered during the halcyon days of the Bicentennial era, but probably even more important was the work of the Commission staff.

The latter regularly met with interested citizens and organizations, advising them on the appropriate procedures to be followed in organizing a local committee. After the committee began to function the state staff provided a wide range of technical assistance. Somewhat belatedly the Commission issued a procedures manual and intermittently sponsored workshops for Action '76 groups. Also of benefit to local people was the *76-O-Gram*, which provided them with useful information about local, state, and national programs.

Some Action '76 committees were large, highly-structured administrative units. Miami's Third Century USA, for example, had a staff that at one point numbered nineteen people. The Jacksonville Bicentennial Commission also had a large staff, a full-time executive director, and a citizen advisory panel of over two hundred and fifty people. Less populous counties, as expected, had smaller staffs and some of them conducted their programs with only one or two people.

Those committees that were able to employ staff members functioned far better than those that relied on volunteers. Not only was a full-time staff able to provide a focus for public attention, but it was also able to disseminate information and coordinate activities far more effectively than a part-time organization. Paid staffs were generally available through the county-administered Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program--a federally funded effort to assist areas suffering from high unemployment rates. Even though such assistance was available to most counties and the Commission actively encouraged Action '76 groups to obtain employees in this manner, few of them took advantage of this program.

Leadership was vital to the effectiveness of the Action '76 effort. It was probably the most crucial element in determining the scope and imagination of a program. In all cases the chairman functioned as the organization's leader. Some chairmen had full-time executive directors and paid staff to conduct their programs while others relied on committees and voluntary associations. Some attempted to do everything alone, many proved able to delegate authority to committees and community groups, and a few did little or nothing. In the last case, the Commission staff was sometimes placed in the embarrassing position of requesting that a chairman resign to make way for a more active person. At times the Commission staff

took this action at the urging of residents and officials in the county where the Bicentennial effort had failed to make progress. Sometimes in counties where the official Action '76 program had been inactive, local residents formed unofficial groups, which engaged in fund raising operations of their own and literally conducted county programs without assistance from the state Commission. In a few such instances that came to light the Commission was able to merge the efforts of the official and unofficial organizations.

In many large counties there were municipal committees formed under the aegis of the mayor's office or the city commission or simply as a result of local enthusiasm. In several counties of that kind the Action '76 chairman found that he could most effectively operate to encourage participation in the Bicentennial effort by coordinating the municipal committee's effort and to play the same role in relation to them that the state Commission did with the county Action '76 committees.

Although most Action '76 committees operated largely with voluntary workers and helpful donations they needed additional funds in order to function effectively. By the latter part of 1972 the Commission became aware of this need and decided to provide recognized Action '76 organizations with administrative funds.¹⁰ The Commission assisted these groups in other ways, too. Its staff suggested appropriate projects, aided local groups in preparing grant applications, and, monitored the expenditure of funds so that the maximum benefit would result. This assistance helped Action '76 committees or recognized groups obtain over three million dollars in grants between 1972 and 1976. Funded projects ranged from Independence Day celebrations to restoration of historic buildings and truly made the Bicentennial era a significant time for all Floridians.



Special projects included a Bicentennial Fire Plug painting contest held among many Florida communities.

The Commission Grants Program

The Commission's most important responsibility in encouraging commemoration of the national anniversary was distribution of grants-in-aid for worthwhile Bicentennial projects. Florida's grant program was wider in scope than most other states' plans as a result of the 1971 statute providing funding for the Commission out of pari-mutuel receipts from special performances at state dog, horse, and harness tracks and jai-alai frontons. The Commission received funds in excess of \$3,599,204.86 through this program, which added to the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) grants of \$543,000, royalties of \$154,088.74, and miscellaneous income of \$33,789.69 gave it resources totaling \$4,330,083.29. Of that amount, the Commission allocated \$3,227,978 for grants-in-aid, of which \$719,734 was reserved for projects developed by the Commission itself and \$2,508,244 distributed to other organizations for Bicentennial programs they had initiated.¹¹

Although it received no funding until some months after its establishment, from its inception the Commission was clearly understood to have authority to make grants-in-aid to fulfill its responsibility to plan an effective and significant statewide Bicentennial celebration. The legislature corroborated that authority by consistently including grants-in-aid categories in its annual appropriations act for the Commission. However, as the grants program developed into the very cornerstone of Commission activities, it was felt that an expressed authority was desirable. Accordingly, in June 1975, the legislature adopted a statute confirming the Commission's authority to enter into contracts and to make grants to departments and agencies of state government, any unit of county, municipal or other local government, and nonprofit corporations or other recognized nonprofit organizations.

While the full Commission always retained final approval of budgetary matters, it delegated initial review of grant applications to committees. At the July 1971 meeting, it adopted a budget for fiscal year 1971-72, and decided to refer funding requests for specific projects to the Local Participation and Resources Committee, chaired by Charles Perry. That system continued until July 1973 when the Executive Committee created a Grants Subcommittee, soon renamed the Budget Subcommittee, charged with reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations. Members of the panel included Pat Dodson, Charles Perry, and Ney landrum until January 1975, when Harold Stayman replaced Dodson, whose term on the Commission had expired.¹²



Vice Chairman Hal Stayman, Jr., and Dr. Johnnie Ruth Clarke serve on the Budget Subcommittee.

The Commission initiated its grants in aid program at the July 1971 meeting, the first session held after passage of the pari-mutuel funding statute, when it approved a budget for fiscal year 1971-72 that included \$130,000 for Third Century USA and \$115,000 for committee programs. Relatively few grants were made that year or during 1972-73, and most of those were related to the Commission's own projects, since, except for Dade, very few counties were yet organized for the Bicentennial.

The third year of the grants program, fiscal 1973-74, saw a gradual increase in the number of grants as more counties came into the Action '76 program, developed Bicentennial projects, and requested Commission funding. Moreover, in March 1972, legislative removal of the original \$350,000 ceiling on annual Commission expenditures and larger income from pari-mutuel receipts allowed the Commission to expand its grants program. In fiscal year 1974-75, the number of grants nearly trebled with major emphasis on counties for development of local projects and activities. The trend toward proportionally more grants to counties and fewer for Commission and other statewide programs continued in fiscal years 1975-76 and 1976-77, indicating the increasing pace of local Bicentennial activities as the celebration reached its climax.

Preferring to maintain its own freedom of judgement and to avoid being forced to reject worthwhile projects simply because they failed to meet some minor requirement, the Commission never wrote a formal list of guidelines for selection of grants, though it generally applied federal grant rules. For example, if a small county proposed only a few projects, some of which clearly did not compare in quality to activities sponsored by larger groups, the commissioners, feeling that every county deserved consideration, wanted to be able to provide that county with funding. Likewise, if a group had an excellent proposal, but was located in a county that had already received considerable funding, the commissioners wanted the option of accepting the project.

Grant requests inevitably exceeded available funds. Selection criteria were accordingly necessary and, in practice, informal guidelines did develop through general agreement of the commissioners. First of all, projects for which Commission funds were requested had to relate to at least one of the national Bicentennial themes of Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. As much as possible, commissioners wanted to assist projects having lasting value, which resulted in deliberate de-emphasis of festival events in favor of heritage and horizons activities. After evaluating the basic merits of the project itself, they reviewed how many people would benefit from a project, whether minority groups were adequately involved, and the amount of money already allocated to the county. Wanting to distribute funds as fairly as possible across the state, they also considered the population, geographical region, and historical significance of the area that would be affected by the project. In addition, there were certain objective requirements that were rigidly enforced. Any group applying for funding had to be either a governmental body or a nonprofit organization. No individuals or commercial firms received state grants. Except in the case of native Americans and a few state agencies, matching funds equal to the amount of the grant request were required for all Commission grants. Moreover, at least half of those matching funds had to be in hard cash, while no more than half could be in in-kind contributions.

Even after the Commission formally approved a grant, project sponsors had to meet certain stipulations. Hard cash matching funds had to be confirmed before state funds were released. Sponsors whose applications had been approved for less than full funding had to verify that their projects could be completed with the reduced funds to a degree satisfactory to the Commission.

Local grants were administered through the Action '76 steering committees, while grants for statewide projects were distributed directly to the grantees. In all cases, the Commission kept Action '76 committees apprised of the status of Bicentennial projects within their areas. During the grant period, project sponsors were required to submit quarterly financial statements and progress reports to the Commission. Grant funds were state monies and consequently had to be expended in accordance with state regulations. After completion of the projects, grantees had to prepare final reports accounting for expenditure of both Commission and matching funds. Furthermore, sponsors whose projects produced publications, reports, architectural designs, or other similar documents were also required to file copies of those papers with the Commission.

Certain types of projects were subject to special regulations. By statute, if publications or films were produced with state monies, either in whole or in part, they had to be copyrighted in the name of a government agency. The Division of Recreation and Parks had to ascertain that trails or other constructions planned for state parks would not adversely affect those facilities before such projects could be implemented. When the Commission applied for federal funding for certain kinds of projects, it had to supply environmental impact statements. The national Bicentennial administration also required a report from the Division of Archives, History and Records Management documenting the status of historic structures and sites involved in projects for which federal grants were requested. The Division of Archives also evaluated the impact on historic value when old structures were moved to new sites. There were strict procedures governing restoration, such as matching original paint colors and woods types, to insure that projects actually resulted in restoration and not alteration of historic buildings.

Some of Florida's Bicentennial activities were financed out of federal rather than state Commission funds. During the course of the national observance, the federal government allocated various monies to be

administered through ARBA for state and local Bicentennial projects. Each state received equal funding. ARBA then accepted applications from state commissions for use of those funds. After grant requests received Commission approval, the staff selected certain projects for application for ARBA financing. Because the proposals were carefully chosen to meet federal grant criteria, ARBA routinely approved them. Federal grants for Florida projects were administered through the Commission to local sponsors in much the same way as state grants.

One of the Commission's early priorities was stimulation of community participation in the Bicentennial. To that end, it initiated the Action '76 program with administrative grants to individual counties for development of Bicentennial programs. When the pilot program developed for Escambia County proved successful, the Commission adopted Action '76 as a statewide program. To implement it, in July 1972, the Executive Committee approved in principle a plan to distribute "seed money" to individual communities on a matching funds basis. A budget of \$222,790 for administrative grants to sixty-five counties was worked out, using a funding formula based on county population as recorded in the 1970 census. (Two counties were excluded: Escambia had already received \$10,000 for the pilot program and Dade, because of its special relationship with the Commission, was considered separately.) Allotments for the first ten Action '76 programs were approved in November, and the rest were accepted the following March. Actual distribution of the grants, which ranged from \$18,600 for Broward to \$500 for each of the thirteen smallest counties, was made when an acceptable Action '76 steering committee was organized in the county and when county-raised matching funds became available. As with all Commission grants, at least half the matching funds had to be in hard cash, and no more than half could be in in-kind contributions.

Although community participation grants were intended to defray expenses incurred in administering development of Bicentennial projects, some counties did not require all their funds for that purpose. Accordingly, they were allowed to request use of available administrative funds for projects. Twenty-three counties took advantage of this option to finance such projects as purchase of a micro-film reader for the Calhoun County Library, construction and furnishing of a typical nineteenth century house in Sumter County, distribution of poinciana trees to Palm Beach County municipalities, the Bicentennial activities of the Broward Minutemen, and a "Salute to the Military" celebration in Tampa.

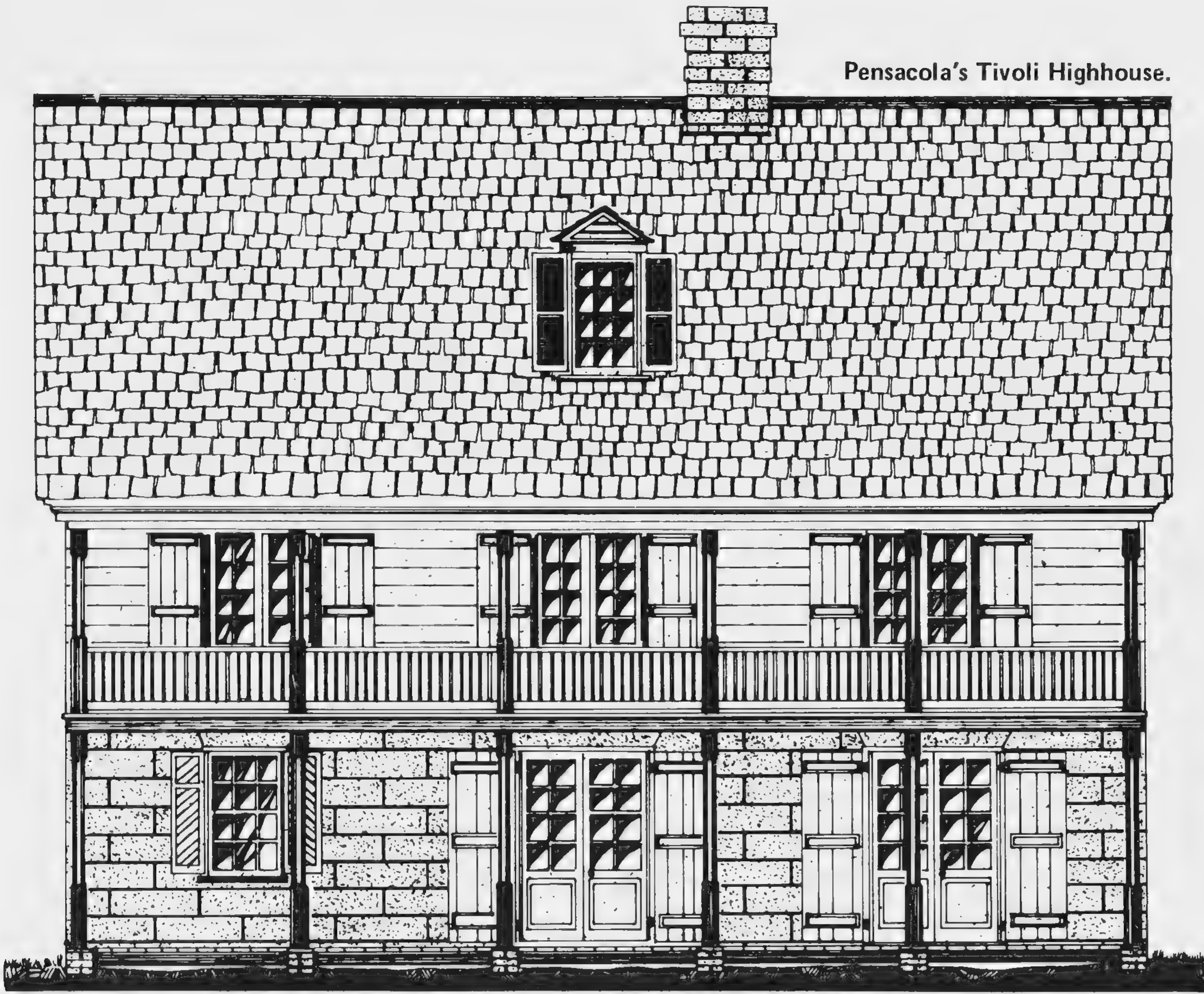
Of the three major Bicentennial themes, the Commission strongly encouraged projects related to Heritage '76 and Horizons '76, in hopes of producing permanent benefits for Florida out of the anniversary observance. It deliberately downplayed Festival USA, considering it more appropriate for local communities to plan their own fanfares and fireworks than for the state Commission to undertake such activities. Moreover, when general planning for the celebration began, Miami, as one of four nationally designated cities, was expected to host a Bicentennial exposition on the scale of a World's Fair. Thus, most of the Commission's substantial support for Third Century USA and Interama, which were to produce that exhibition, was festival sponsorship. Outside of Dade County, however, Commission grants heavily emphasized commemoration of the state and national heritage and, even more important, improvement of the quality of life in Florida.

While a rough classification of Commission-funded projects according to the three national themes is possible, it must be remembered that many projects developed more than one of those themes. Restoration of historic buildings, for example, was not only preservation of local heritage, but also a legacy for the future, especially if, as was often the case, the structures were used as museums or meeting houses. As a focus for Bicentennial celebrations, such a project might also have fallen within a festival theme. Likewise, establishment of a nature park not only improved the community with a new recreational facility, but also conserved a natural heritage that might otherwise have been lost. Furthermore, even the patriotic speeches at Bicentennial rallies, clearly festival events, contained elements of other themes when the speakers recalled historical happenings or called for a greater future. Nevertheless, in this discussion, grant projects will be grouped according to their Bicentennial themes.

**“People will not look forward
to posterity who never look
backward to their ancestors.”**

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1790.

Pensacola's Tivoli Highhouse.



Many of the Commission's more substantial grants for heritage projects went towards restoration and preservation of historic buildings. The Tivoli Highhouse was one of the earliest such projects funded by the Commission. Located in Pensacola's Seville Square Historic District, the Highhouse, formerly called the Casenave House, was built about 1805. It served first as a private residence and later as a tavern. As the only Seville Square building dating from the second Spanish period (1783-1821), the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board deemed it worthy of complete restoration. The Commission made two grants for the project: the first, approved in July 1972, allocated \$23,360 in Commission funds and \$45,000 in federal funds; the second, in July 1974, granted an additional \$60,000, half out of state monies, and half out of federal grants. Further support for the restoration was provided by the City of Pensacola, Escambia County, and other agencies of the State of Florida.

Another restoration project was the Manatee Village Historical Park in Bradenton. Sponsored by the Manatee County Historical Commission, the project involved restoring two old buildings and relocating them on a park site donated by the City of Bradenton. The principal structure to be restored was a courthouse, completed in 1859, which served as the original house of government for present-day Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, and Glades Counties. In 1976 the courthouse was certified as the oldest known standing courthouse in Florida and accepted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It was restored for use as a museum. The second building, formerly the Manatee United Methodist Church, dating from 1889, was restored for use as a non-denominational chapel, open to the public for appropriate ceremonies. When completed, the relocation and restoration cost \$34,228, of which \$12,500 was provided by a May 1976 Commission grant. The bulk of the program was financed through a local fund drive conducted by the county historical commission.

With a Commission grant of \$4,500, matched by \$8,190 in federal funds from the Florida Endowment for the Humanities, the Bethlehem M. B. Church was moved from its original site outside Tallahassee to a site provided on the grounds of the Tallahassee Junior Museum and restored to house historical displays. Preservation of the ante-bellum church, thought to be the oldest existing black church in the state, was sponsored jointly by the Department of Philosophy and Religion and the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts at Florida A & M University and approved by the Bicentennial Planning Committee of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The project involved four phases: first, relocation of the structure; second, exterior restoration including a new split-shingle roof, siding, windows, a chimney, and front steps; third, a conference on the black church in America designed to foster public awareness and understanding and to develop materials for use in displays within the restored church; and fourth, interior restoration and furnishing of the building.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., another minority group to receive Commission grants, undertook restoration and renovation projects at the Okalee Village and Arts and Crafts Center on the Hollywood Reservation in Broward County. The village, which is operated as a tourist center by the tribe, depicts traditional Seminole life through tours, exhibitions of crafts, and the annual Seminole Tribe Fair. In 1974, the Commission approved a \$12,640 grant for exterior restoration and modernization of Okalee Village, including resurfacing of the parking area, construction of a patio and new cement walkways around the entrance, and a new lighted highway sign. The cash funds were used for materials; the Indians and their employees performed the labor. In 1975, the Commission awarded a second grant of \$10,000, which was paid out of federal funds, for interior renovation at the village, including installation of a public address system, safety rails on sidewalks and animal cages, renovation of public restrooms, and further landscaping. Because the grants were for native Americans, who have a special relationship with the federal government, no matching funds were required.

The Commission assisted several projects for restoration and preservation of old train stations, usually when those companies offered to donate the old depot to the community on condition that the building be restored. Otherwise, the depot would be razed. Plant City, named for pioneer Florida railroad tycoon Henry B. Plant, found itself in such a situation. The town's old train station was located partly on the right-of-way of the Seaboard Coastline, which would allow it to remain there only if it were restored. Accordingly, the Arts Council of Plant City, Inc. developed a \$282,480 project to restore the depot and transform it into a cultural center. Phase I of the program called for exterior restoration sufficient to satisfy the railroad company and prevent demolition of the building. The Arts Council sought and received \$4,000 in Commission grants for the first phase, and applied those funds to salvage the depot's platform and exterior canopies.

Another depot restoration was the refurbishment of the Lake Wales train station, dating from the 1920s, for use as the town's first museum and fine arts center. The Seaboard Coastline donated the building and provided \$3,000 in matching funds. The Commission committed \$7,000 to the project in 1975 and 1976.

In cases where there was inadequate information available on potential restoration projects, the Commission granted funds for preliminary studies, such as the Hotel Thomas Feasibility Study. The Hotel Thomas, a large, rambling, three-story building in Gainesville's Duck Pond area, has been a city landmark since its construction. Originally begun about 1910 as a residence for phosphate magnate Charles William Chase, later expanded and converted into a hotel, it is representative of resort hotel architecture from Florida's early twentieth century boom days and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The feasibility study, financed by \$7,500 from the Alachua County Commission, \$7,500 from the Gainesville City Commission, and \$15,000 from the Bicentennial Commission, evaluated alternative uses for the Hotel Thomas building and the restoration, reconstruction, and renovation necessary to adapt it for those uses.

Besides actual restoration work and feasibility studies, the Commission also sponsored four Historic American Buildings Surveys (HABS), one each in Pensacola, Tampa, Key West, and Jacksonville. A continuing program of the National Park Service's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, HABS projects involve recording a selected group of historically or architecturally significant structures with measured drawings, photographic documentation, and written historical and architectural data. Thus, the studies provide data useful for future restoration and preservation projects, as well as historical information of interest in itself. In 1972, at the suggestion of Blair Reeves, the Commission authorized \$20,000 for four surveys in four Florida cities. Each survey cost \$15,000, of which the Commission provided \$5,000, the National Park Service provided \$5,000, and the city involved provided \$5,000 in cash and in-kind services. When the summer projects were completed, one set of records was sent to the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management.

Some heritage projects, such as the pioneer homestead at the Jacksonville Children's Museum, involved recreation rather than restoration. In 1975, the museum installed a board and batten pioneer house as the nucleus of its Heritage Homestead exhibit designed to display old skills in their natural environment. In 1976, it sought Commission assistance to expand that exhibit with the addition of a tobacco shed and corn crib which had been donated by the Spike Buck Hunting Club of Sanderson. The Commission responded with \$5,000 out of its federal monies. A matching fund of \$2,000 was donated by the Jacksonville Board of Realtors. The National Guard provided engineers, laborers, trucks, and other equipment to move the two structures from Sanderson to the museum site. Restoration of the buildings was itself an exhibit, as children watched workmen hand cut new shingles for the structures' roofs. The children themselves planted and cared for the gardens around the homestead, which, as of December 1976, had been seen by some 200,000 visitors.

Yet another category of heritage projects funded by the Commission involved historical publications. Prominent among these were county histories, which the Commission, through its Research and Publications Committee, specifically encouraged. Usually the Commission made matching grants of \$2,500 for such studies. One of the best county histories produced was the *History of Jefferson County*, by Jerrell H. Shofner, which analyzed the county's past from its earliest history to the present. Included along the way were discussions of the Indians who first occupied the area, Spanish missions, American settlement, the

Seminole conflict, slavery and its ramifications within the county, frontier law and order, antebellum society, secession and the Civil War, politics during the Republican and Bourbon eras, economic and social changes in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the effect of the Depression, and Jefferson County's present position as a rural county in an urban world. Production of the book was financed jointly by the Jefferson County Commission and the Bicentennial Commission, each of which provided \$2,500.



Turn Left at the Plaza, describes St. George Street in St. Augustine's historic district.

Another kind of publication that might be considered a heritage project, but which also contained elements of other themes, was *Turn Left at the Plaza*, an historical walking and driving guide of St. Augustine and northeast Florida. The forty-eight-page booklet, sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida, provided a convenient guide for visitors to the area. Although the project was originally budgeted at \$7,500, with the Commission share set at one-half that amount, it was completed for \$6,642.64. Profits from the sale of the pamphlet were used for further restoration of the Ximenez-Fatio House, which is owned and operated by the Society.

Closely related to heritage grants for historical publications were grants for other historical research and research aids. One such grant was made to the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida in Gainesville to initiate preparation of a calendar of Spanish holdings. When completed, the calendar will index some 680,000 pages of documents in the East Florida Papers, the Papeles de Cuba, and the Stetson Collection, thus opening to intensive research the largest single collection of Spanish documents for any area of the United States. Commission funding of \$10,000, which was matched by \$34,610 from private foundations and \$13,000 from the University of Florida, underwrote the work necessary to develop 100,000 calendar cards for the Spanish documents.

Research supported by the Commission included historical and archaeological studies of Fort George undertaken by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management preparatory to the development and interpretation of the site as a public historical display. The fort, located in Pensacola, was the scene of a 1781 American Revolution era battle between Spanish and British forces that ended in the return of West Florida to Spanish control. The Commission's grant of \$17,000 to Archives financed the research that allowed the City of Pensacola to develop the site with exhibits depicting the story of the fort and the Battle of Pensacola. Fort George was also designated as an official Florida Bicentennial Trail Site.

As mentioned before, funding for festival projects was deliberately de-emphasized by the Commission, although it was not totally neglected. Most of the festival projects that did receive assistance were cultural or educational events. A notable example was the Commission's support for the Bicentennial Odyssey tour of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. In May 1976, traveling on a floating arts center, the symphony visited the five coastal communities of Panama City, Clearwater, Tampa, Boca Raton, and West Palm Beach. At each stop, it presented a day-long program that included educational symposia, businessmen's concerts, children's theater, and poetry and printing forums by leading artists. The celebrations concluded with a performance by the forty-five-member orchestra of George Fredrick Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks." Each stop cost \$7,500. The cities provided half that amount, which the Commission matched with \$3,750 in federal funds.

Another musical festival receiving Commission backing was the Bicentennial Parade of American Music, sponsored in Florida by the Florida Federation of Music Clubs, but also part of a national program planned by the National Music Council under a \$200,000 grant from Exxon Corporation. The first phase of the project involved selection of the best of some 1,000 original compositions submitted by Florida composers and production of a thirteen-week radio series of musical works by Floridians. The Commission allocated \$2,500 for this aspect of the program. The second phase revolved around a Florida Day performance of the winning compositions at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C. on May 24, 1976. The Florida musicians chosen to participate in that concert included a chorus from the University of Miami, soloists Jeanette Lombard and Karen Tyler, the New College String Quartet, and a special thirty-six-member chamber orchestra directed by Willis Page, conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. The Commission allotted another \$8,000 to the Florida Federation of Music Clubs for the Florida Day concert.

The Asolo State Theater's Bicentennial Tour also received financial assistance from the Commission. In 1975, the theater requested a grant of \$18,000 to help defray expenses of more than \$50,000 for the October 1975 tour of the play "The Patriots" by Sidney Kingsley. However, since the application listed expected ticket sales as matching funds, and the Budget Subcommittee could not consider that hard cash, the request was denied. Nevertheless, the play, which dealt with the birth of the nation, did tour for two weeks during October. The production proved to be so good that WBET/13, a public television station in New York, taped it for national broadcast as part of its highly-acclaimed "Theater in America" series. "The Patriots" was also reviewed in *Time* magazine. However, the project incurred a deficit of \$12,451, which threatened the Asolo Theater's 1976 season. The theater again applied to the Commission for assistance. This time the Commission, although it had an unwritten policy against deficit funding, allocated \$6,000, which, together with ticket sales receipts, and grants from the Selby Foundation and Exxon Corporation, was enough to cover all expenses.

The Commission funded a few locally produced exhibits, most of them educational in nature, such as the Suitcase Exhibit Program sponsored by the John Young Museum and Planetarium of Orlando. That successful, continuing program provides specially designed and constructed suitcases full of educational material, museum artifacts, and science equipment to school classrooms. Trained volunteer lecturers present the exhibits at schools requesting them. In 1975, the museum sought Commission funding for expansion of the program, which could be considered a horizons as well as a festival project. Specifically, the museum wanted to create twelve new exhibits on man's history in Florida and the rest of the United States and on metrification. It also planned to upgrade its existing science oriented displays and develop exhibits that could be mailed. In May 1975, the Commission contributed \$5,000 for implementation of the project.

Another project that fits into both festival and horizons classifications was the Florida Special Olympics, which provided athletic competition for mentally-handicapped children and adults. The Commission made two grants for the Special Olympics. The first, for \$7,500 toward a project totalling \$21,000, provided partial travel expenses to Mount Pleasant, Michigan, for 80 handicapped children and 20 chaperones from fifty Florida counties. In Michigan, the athletes competed with representatives from other states in the International Games of the Special Olympics held August 7-11, 1975. Each participant wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the Florida Bicentennial symbol. The second Commission grant provided \$4,500 for the statewide games held June 18-20, 1976, in Gainesville. Those games saw 1,900 athletes, aided by 350 volunteer chaperones, participate in track and field, swimming, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, bowling and other sports. There was also all the pageantry and excitement befitting an Olympic competition.

Almost as important to the Commission as sponsorship of heritage activities was support for horizons programs designed to improve the quality of life in Florida. Numerous grants assisted projects related to ecology and conservation. For example, \$36,630 was awarded in July 1974 to Hillsborough Community College for development of the Cockroach Bay Environmental Center. The center was to be located on a 20.7-acre site that contained a complex ecological system affected by salt water from the open bay, by fresh water from the land, and by transitional mixtures of both salt and fresh water. It was designed to benefit the entire community by providing educational programs for students at all levels, in-service teacher training programs in ecology, community programs on environmental issues and scientific data on a salt-water esturian area. Commission funds helped pay for construction materials, personnel, and other necessary equipment.

A second environmental education program was the construction of the Ecological Studies Building at the mah-Kah-wee Program Center in Chuluota. Operated by the Citrus Council of Girls Scouts, Inc., the facility is an integrated program, training, and outdoor education center that serves more than 14,000 central Florida Girl Scouts and other groups interested in environmental studies. A 1975 request for \$16,000 resulted in a Commission grant of \$14,000, which was applied to actual construction costs for the ecological studies building, a handsome, barn-style wooden structure. Total construction costs reached approximately \$65,000.

Like the Cockroach Bay facility, Erna Nixon Park in West Melbourne conserved a unique ecological system, although in this case the area was a hammock, an island of palm, hardwood, and subtropical plants surrounded by a pine forest. Although the park was owned and operated by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, it received continuing substantial support from the Junior Service League of South Brevard. In 1975, the county commissioners requested \$50,000 in matching funds from the Bicentennial Commission for development of the park, but the Commission allocated only \$17,500, necessitating reduction in the original plans. Nevertheless, the park was improved with an interpretive trails system, outdoor classroom areas, parking and other standard facilities.

Instead of conserving a natural environment, the Florida Injured Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc. in Melbourne concentrated on caring for injured, sick, or young wildlife and on providing environmental education programs to the community. In 1974, Carlton Teate, who founded the facility in 1970, applied to the Commission for funds to expand the educational program and continue operation of the sanctuary. At its September 1974 meeting, the Commission approved a grant of \$15,000, which was matched by \$9,650 in cash from the City of Melbourne, High Winds, and the Brevard County Commission, and by \$8,650 in in-kind services from Sea World and the Brevard County Commission.

Horizons funding for community improvements projects often supported refurbishment of local buildings in Florida's smaller towns. Renovation of the Casino in Fruitland Park was such a case. That city, with some 1,600 residents, sought Commission assistance to provide an acoustical tile ceiling and new lighting for the Casino, the only building owned by the City. The Commission allocated \$1,000 for the \$2,162 project, which prepared the building for the 1976 Independence Day festivities held there.

The Commission allocated further horizons grants to a wide range of projects. In Palm Beach, for example, it supported the Urban League's plan to distribute twenty copies of the *Negro Almanac*, an encyclopedic reference work on Afro-American history and current events, to county libraries. Totalling \$1,260, that was one of the smallest projects funded by the Commission which provided a grant of \$630 for its implementation. Matching funds of \$1,000 were also allocated to the Sun City Center Civic Association in 1976 for preparation of large print reading materials. Such material was easier for the area's numerous elderly residents to enjoy.

Another unique project aided by \$5,000 from the Commission was the League of Women Voters' 1976 conference on citizen electoral involvement. Entitled "Election '76 -- What If There Were an Election and Nobody Came?" the conference was intended to define factors affecting voter participation and to seek ways to increase that participation. Some 100 League members, supervisors of elections, members of the legislature, and other interested citizens attended the colloquium. When the League discovered that it had expended less than half of the funds available, it applied to the Commission for permission to use the remaining money for a follow-up conference to analyze November 1976 elections. The Commission accepted the proposal, and the follow-up conference took place in Orlando on January 26, 1977.

The Hemispheric Conference for Women, staged in Miami during August 1976, received Commission grants totalling \$13,500, although that was only a small part of the \$225,000 required. The conference, "Women of the Western Hemisphere: Their Interdependent Destiny," was sponsored by the U. S. Committee of Cooperation, which, although itself a nongovernmental agency, operates under guidelines from the Inter-American Commission on Women and is chaired by the principal delegate of the United States to that commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the social, economic, and political roles of women in the Americas. Representatives from most North and South American countries heard some 200 speakers and participated in thirty-two specialized workshops during the three-day session.

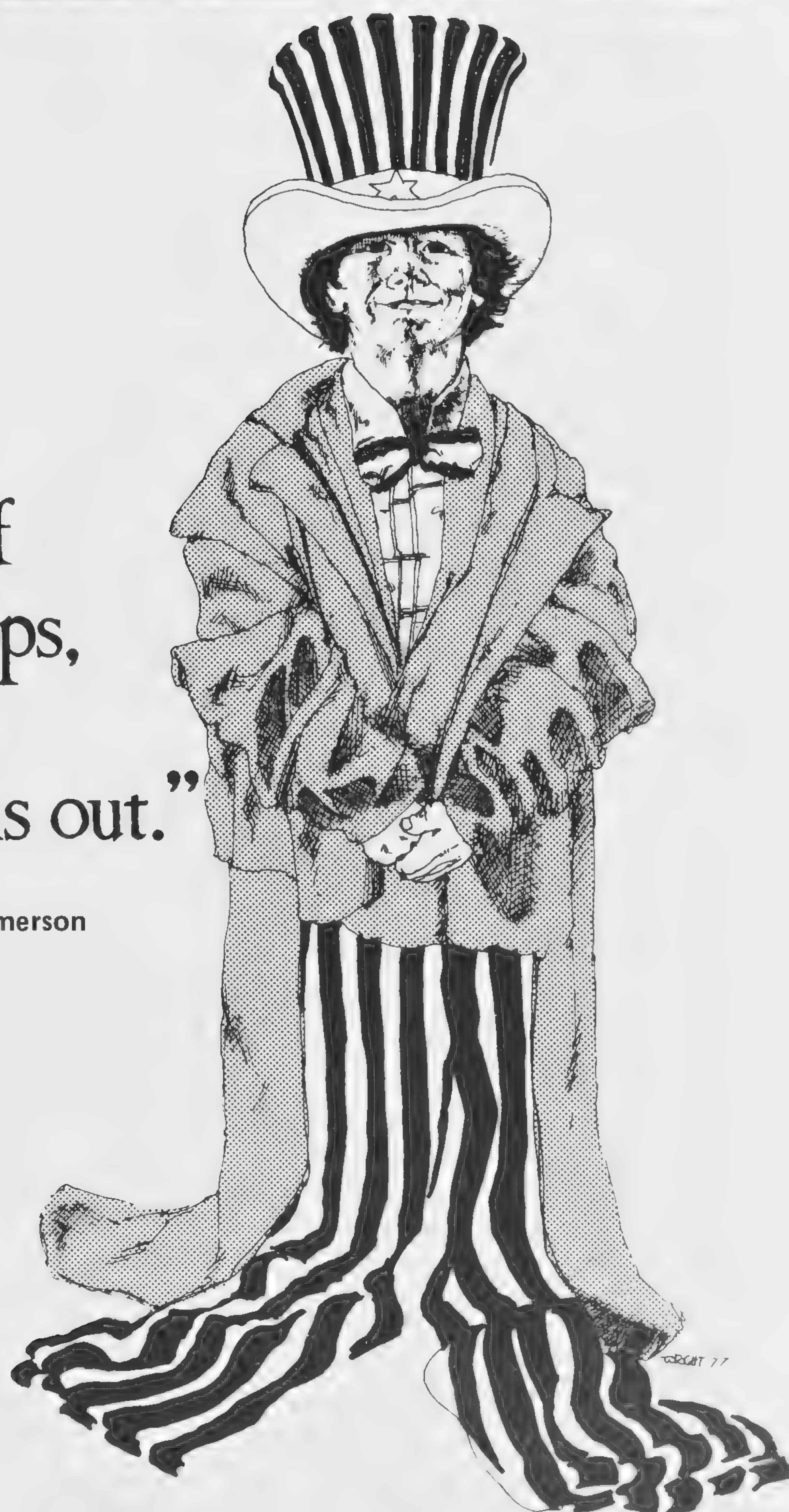
The grants discussed above are merely a representative sampling of the 275 projects assisted by the Commission. A complete annotated list of Bicentennial grants is included in the appendix.

In addition to making its own grants and allocating federal grants to local projects, the Commission helped local groups obtain federal funding from the U. S. Department of Commerce under Title X of the Public Works and Economic Development Act (Job Opportunities Program). On August 21, 1975, the Commission was notified that \$375,000,000 were available for grants for Bicentennial projects, but that applications had to be received in Washington by September 8. The staff had already alerted Action '76 committees of the possibility of Title X monies for Bicentennial projects that would create jobs in areas of high unemployment. Two whirlwind weeks of preparation by local groups and the Commission staff produced thirty-six grant applications from thirty-one organizations for projects ranging from restorations and renovations to parks and beautifications.

The result justified the efforts: Florida received Title X grants of \$465,575, more than any of the other seven states in the southeastern region. Four organizations benefitted from the program. The City of Delray Beach received \$250,000 for development of recreational facilities at the Fourth Avenue Park. The City of Gainesville was awarded \$15,575 toward a project for beautification of its police headquarters building. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida each won grants of \$100,000, the former for restoration and expansion of the Seminole Village, and the latter for renovation of the site of the Miccosukee Indian Art Festival. Although it assisted in obtaining the Title X grants, the Commission did not administer them; that was handled by the United States Department of Commerce and the local entities involved.

“The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops, --no but the kind of man the country turns out.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Third Century U.S.A. and Interama

Some time in 1969 Lester Johnson, a Miami businessman, initiated correspondence from the putative Miami Bicentennial Committee to the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Mr. Johnson was aware that several cities were competing for the privilege of developing a national Bicentennial fair in their communities and he felt that Miami should be one of the cities considered. After receiving Commission notification that it had planned a special session for a Miami presentation, Johnson rapidly obtained the endorsement of both the City of Miami and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. The latter organization was particularly interested in promoting Interama and sent a number of Miamians to Washington to lobby on behalf of the City. Meanwhile, the number of people connected with the Miami Bicentennial Committee continued to grow and at one of their impromptu meetings they decided to call themselves "Third Century USA." Mr. Sylvan Meyer, editor of the *Miami News*, was named chairman of the fledgling organization.

Using \$20,000 provided by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Third Century hurriedly developed a program centered around the Interama concept and formally presented it to the national Commission in December 1969. Their presentation apparently convinced federal Bicentennial officials to include Miami in national planning, for when the national Commission presented its report to the President in July 1970 it endorsed "the completion of Miami's permanent Trade and Cultural Center by 1976 as a part of the Bicentennial observance." Only years later would it become apparent that this endorsement was only a symbolic gesture, but in the halcyon days of 1970 everyone was sure that the federal commitment would transform Interama from a dream into a reality.

The concept of an international exposition in Miami focusing on the Americas originated about 1920. But it was not until the early 1950s that the State created an agency -- Inter-American Center Authority -- to direct this still embryonic effort. Within a few years this organization had selected the 1700-acre Graves tract (located in northeast Dade County) as the site for the proposed exposition. An \$8,000,000 bond issue was successfully marketed in the next few years and the funds were used for massive filling operations, feasibility studies, and initial developmental reports. At the same time Interama also tried to secure federal participation, especially loans and grants. Thus by 1970 the people associated with this impressive venture felt that they would soon be able to begin construction.

While Third Century was working to promote Interama, Florida had become interested in planning for the Bicentennial and enacted legislation in the spring of 1970 establishing a state commission. Among other duties the state body was charged "to cooperate with the Miami Bicentennial Committee which has been organized by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce...to plan the proposed international exposition at that city; to assist such authorities in achieving an international recognition of said exposition as a key primary attraction of the national celebration."

As a companion to that measure the legislature passed an act transferring control of the Inter-American Center Authority from Dade County to the State.¹³ The statute established an appointive seven-member board and empowered it with the authority to develop the 1,700 acres of land (known as the Graves Tract) then owned by Interama. The State initiative was probably instrumental in convincing the citizens of North Miami to approve a multi-million dollar bond issue. The funds enabled Interama to redeem a defaulted series of bonds and avoid the necessity of selling part of its land. Also in 1970, President Charles Perry of Florida International University announced that the institution's second campus would be constructed on Authority property.

Third Century, meanwhile, had waged an aggressive fund raising campaign in the local community and succeeded in obtaining \$59,000 from business leaders and the Orange Bowl Committee. This money was used to hire the research-planning firm of Hammer, Green, Siler, which in January 1971, submitted a \$42,000 report to the Authority. The ambitious plan included the following significant developments:

An international university -- FIU -- whose second campus was already slated for the site.

A modern domed stadium capable of accommodating the full range of big league sports and other major spectator events.

A giant amusement park and public recreation area serving both the regional population and south Florida tourists.

A complex of regional cultural facilities including a museum of modern art, a performing arts theater, a music hall, a botanical garden, and related facilities.

A regional environmental control facility embodying the most advanced technology in handling urban waste disposal.

An international center focused on Inter-American trade and cultural relations, featuring a permanent U.S. pavilion, office and exhibit space for public and private agencies, a conference center and an international retail mart.

A large nature preserve offering a permanent demonstration of ecological protection and a quiet retreat for regional nature lovers.

Extensive campus grounds for the mass of tourists visiting the region.

When the legislature convened in 1971, officials of Interama, Third Century, and the Bicentennial Commission of Florida discovered a unique way to fund Bicentennial activities. Specifically they proposed that the legislature permit each dog, horse, and harness track and jai-alai fronton to operate an extra day each season with the state profits accruing to the Bicentennial Commission. The necessary support of Dade County legislators was obtained by promising that a share of the revenue would be allocated to Third Century and Interama. After the act passed, the Commission agreed that about \$130,000 would be given yearly to Third Century. Also, Interama received \$100,000 in 1972. Between 1971 and 1977 both organizations received \$741,464 -- about 25 per cent of all state funds.

Besides directing Bicentennial observances in Dade County, Third Century was responsible for planning appropriate activities at Interama. This organization also felt committed to ensuring the overall success of Interama, and it seems that most of its capital was invested in projects that would directly benefit the Authority.¹⁴

Interama continued with its own planning and in October 1971 hired Rouse Inter-American Center, Inc. to formulate a detailed plan for the development of Authority property. The latter eventually paid the consulting firm \$265,000 for the work.¹⁵ In February 1972 Rouse submitted its report to Interama. The firm estimated that the project would cost between \$152,000,000 and \$165,000,000 and would include a major complex encompassing over fifty acres called the Garden of the Sun, a massive Inter-American cultural and trade center, a 1000-foot observation and restaurant tower, a U.S. pavilion, a campus for Florida International University, a 16,000-seat indoor sports arena, a 300-yacht marina and "boatel," a twenty acre "park for the people," a nature preserve, and a county sewer plant.¹⁶ Interama officials decided that a project of this magnitude would have to be managed by a professional firm and so in the fall of 1972 they employed Finley-Green Joint Venture for the work.

Interama intended to finance the project by a multi-million dollar bond issue. Unfortunately the bonds were not offered for sale until 1974, at a time when economic conditions proved inauspicious for the issue. With the entire project about to collapse the State decided to intervene and in 1975 enacted legislation abolishing the Inter-American Center Authority. This statute also appropriated \$6,487,000 to extinguish the outstanding debts of the Authority and provided the transfer of most real estate to Dade County.

Although Interama never became a reality, it profoundly affected the size and course of Florida's Bicentennial observance. Without the support of Dade County's legislators, who hoped to make Interama a focal point of the national celebration, the pari-mutuel funding scheme, which proved vital to the Commission's efforts, would never have been proposed or passed. Only hindsight provides opportunity to question the wisdom of appropriating large sums of money for the aborted venture.



"I think the true discovery of America is before us. I think the true fulfillment of our spirit, of our people, of our mighty land, is yet to come... And I think that all these things are certain as the morning, as inevitable as noon."

Thomas Wolfe

Historical Publications

The Bicentennial observance in Florida has produced a mixed collection of publications, ranging from scholarly historical studies to cookbooks to commemorative photo albums, totalling in all more than one hundred publications, with even more still in the works. The vast majority of these books and pamphlets are historical, sometimes serious and sometimes superficial, but historical, nevertheless. Of these many publications, forty-nine have been at least partially funded by the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. It is upon these historical works sponsored by the Commission that this section concentrates.¹⁷

In developing its publications program, the Commission concentrated on the heritage theme, undertaking projects that would illuminate the state's unique, often flamboyant past, both during the American Revolution when the Florida colonies remained loyal to Britain, and at other times in the 464 years since Ponce de León first touched these shores. Thus, the Floridiana Facsimile Series, a collection of twenty-five reprints of key studies on Florida, was chosen as the Commission's initial publications project in order to make valuable, otherwise unobtainable works available to scholars and the general public alike. Thus, the Proceedings of the History Symposia, J. Leitch Wright's *Florida in The American Revolution*, and Bart Starr's *Tories, Dons, and Rebels* were selected for publication to provide a body of original material on British Florida (1763-1783), a period sadly neglected by researchers, as well as to highlight Florida's part in the Revolution. Also, the Commission encouraged Action '76 steering committees to sponsor county histories in order to capture the rich fabric of local history before it could be lost and to disseminate it to make citizens aware of their heritage.

Selection of specific projects came within the purview of the Commission's Research and Publications Committee, chaired by Samuel Proctor from its inception until his departure from the Commission in January 1975, and thereafter by Johnnie Ruth Clarke. Officially, this committee was given responsibility for "planning, recording, and publishing all of the Commission, or Commission-sponsored publications such as historical reprints and guidebooks in cooperation with other committees." As the Commission's resident historian, and a noted authority on Florida history, Proctor naturally played a major role in developing and implementing the publications program, although the program was also partially developed and solidly backed by other commissioners, notably Pat Dodson, Robert Williams, Charles Perry, and, of course, Dr. Clarke.

"The world and the books are so accustomed to use, and overuse the word 'new' in connection with our country that we early get and permanently retain the impression that there is nothing old about it."

Mark Twain



The Floridiana Facsimile Series was the first publications project approved by the Commission. It was modeled on another reprint collection, known as the Quadracentennial Series, developed in the latter 1950s and early 1960s by Rembert W. Patrick, then Chairman of the Department of History at the University of Florida. Dr. Proctor recalled that the series had been particularly well-received, liked its format, and felt that there were still numerous rare books about Florida that deserved to be reprinted. Therefore, he suggested, at the very outset of its existence, that the Commission consider such a project. In fact, a facsimile collection was even mentioned as an example of possible projects in the officially established duties of the Publications Committee. Accordingly, at its July 23, 1971 meeting, the Commission endorsed the idea when it approved an initial allocation of \$30,000 to the Publications Committee for "reprint of five hardback histories long out of print" and two other projects. At that time no specific total number of facsimile volumes had been mentioned, but at the following meeting Proctor's committee recommended that the series include twenty-five books, to be published at a rate of five each year through 1976. Each volume was to include a modern introduction, encompassing an evaluation of the book and biographical information about its author, and an index. This was the plan finally agreed upon, and implemented, with the single exception that the volumes appeared later than scheduled.

Since he had suggested the idea, and had the necessary knowledge of the field, Proctor was named general editor for the series. He used his own awareness of valuable works, information from librarians about the rare volumes most often requested, and consultation with other historical experts to select the specific works for inclusion in the series. Likewise, he chose the writers for the introductions from among qualified scholars. Most were professional historians, such as John K. Mahon and Helen Hornbeck Tanner, but some were lay people well-versed in Floridiana, such as John Ware and Pat Dodson. Once the titles and editors had been determined, there began a search for copies of the books whose condition would permit photographic reproduction. Rarity of the works sometimes made this difficult: for example, the photographer had to be sent to Brown University to shoot one of only two copies in the United States of Denys Rolle's 1776 petition to Parliament. When the introduction had been received and edited, indexes and bibliographies prepared, the book design chosen, and the galleys proofed, the volume was ready for publication.

The titles selected for the series ranged widely over Florida's long history from Daniel Coxe's 1772 *Description of the Province of Carolina, by the Spaniards Call'd Florida* to Jefferson B. Browne's 1912 description of *Key West: The Old and the New*. The kinds of books, too, were diverse, including such delightful travel accounts as Abbie M. Brooks' *Petals Plucked From Sunny Climes*, less delightful descriptions like J. C. Powell's *The American Siberia, or Fourteen Years Experience in a Southern Convict Camp*, and scholarly studies like P. Lee Phillips' *Notes on the life and works of Bernard Romans*. And they were written by such varied characters as Sidney Lanier, noted Southern poet, George Fairbanks, premier nineteenth century Florida historian, George A. McCall, soldier, and William Gerard DeBrahm, cartographer and scientist. The first volume appeared in May 1973. Publication of the full series was not completed until late 1977. The facsimiles were published in editions of approximately 1,500, with no plans for reprints, except for Sidney Lanier's *1875 Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History*, which proved so popular that a second printing of 1,500 was ordered.¹⁸

The Facsimile Series was funded primarily through annual Bicentennial Commission grants, beginning in fiscal year 1972-73, to the University Presses of Florida. Under the original agreement with the Press, five per cent royalties on the cash receipts from sale of the volumes would go to both the general editor of the series and to the editor for each volume, and the remaining ninety per cent would be divided equally between the Press and the Commission. The Commission's share would be held in a rotating fund for the exclusive use of the Press in support of publishing costs of additional scholarly works of Floridiana, these works to be agreed upon by the Press and the Commission.

Although the cost of the project had originally been estimated at \$81,000 it became apparent, by November 1973, that the series would cost approximately \$120,000, due largely to inflation, which had forced publication costs up from 1970-71 levels of about twelve dollars per page to a 1973 level of twenty dollars per page. It seemed likely that costs would continue to rise even further (as they did, reaching approximately twenty-three dollars per page by early 1977). In addition, Proctor believed the original Press estimates had underestimated the average length of the works to be reprinted and neglected certain special costs such as the Romans maps in the Phillips volume.

At the November 1973 meeting, it was reported to the Commission that \$40,014.20 had already been given to the University of Florida Press, so funding of \$80,000 more was needed to complete the series. Although only four titles had been published, two more were soon to appear, and fairly extensive work had already been done on the remaining nineteen volumes. Dr. Proctor and Williams held that completion of the series deserved priority consideration, having been one of the earliest projects undertaken. Chairman Adams asked the staff and Proctor to work up a specific proposal for funding. This report listed alternative funding plans, including use of the Commission's share of the profits from the sale of the volumes to finance the remaining titles in the collection. It was estimated that Commission profits on complete sale of the full twenty-five volumes would amount to \$107,578. Mr. Kemp recommended that of the \$80,000 required,

\$40,000 be provided through direct grants over two years and \$40,000 come from the sales profits. In the end, the Commission revised its agreement with the Press to allow use of the rotating fund to finance further volumes in the series, and continued to provide direct grants. The Commission eventually provided the Press a total of \$133,893 in grant funds to complete the series.

As a most appropriate part of the Bicentennial observance, and because the few existing studies of the subject were outdated, the Commission sponsored several scholarly analyses of Florida during the American Revolution. The earliest and most ambitious of these was *Florida in the American Revolution*, by Dr. J. Leitch Wright, Professor of History at Florida State University. Unlike earlier scholars, who had limited themselves to discussions of either East or West Florida, Wright, following the example of the eighteenth century diplomats who juggled the peninsula's fate, considered the two colonies as a single unit. He then analyzed the British takeover of the Floridas in 1763, border skirmishes during the period, Bernard de Galvez and the Spanish capture of Pensacola in 1781, the colonies' role as diplomatic pawns in the 1783 Paris peace settlement, and England's final evacuation of the Floridas.



Lt. Governor J. H. Williams, Commission Chairman, and Dr. Leitch Wright, author of *Florida in the American Revolution*.

Several factors led the Commission to engage Wright to undertake this study. Not only was he a specialist in colonial history, but, even before this assignment, he had begun to identify himself with the study of British Florida through various articles and lectures which made him familiar with the sources on the subject. Moreover, in late 1971, when Samuel Proctor first approached him, he was just about to take leave from FSU to go to London to perform research on the eighteenth century frontier power struggle between Florida and Georgia. Thus, after completing his work on that subject, he would be able to do needed research at the British Museum, Public Records Office, and other English archives for the Bicentennial project.

Dr. Wright made steady progress on the study, including research at the New York Public Library, the William L. Clements Library, the Georgia Department of Archives and History, as well as British repositories and numerous Florida libraries and archives. By July 1974, the manuscript was completed and submitted to the University of Florida Press for scholarly review and approval. It was published in December 1975.

For his research and writing, Wright received only \$500 in Commission funds, which went primarily toward typing expenses. Under his contract with the Press, he also received standard author's royalties of ten per cent on sales receipts. The remaining ninety per cent was divided equally between the Press and the Bicentennial Commission, with the Commission's profits being deposited in the revolving fund for future publications. Printing costs of \$5,624 for the first edition of 2,000 copies were paid by the Commission.

Florida in the American Revolution was greeted favorably by scholars, and the Florida Historical Society gave Wright the Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award for the best book on Florida history published in 1975.

"I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure it will cost us to maintain this Declaration. Yet through all the gloom I see the rays of ravishing light and glory. This is our day of deliverance. With solemn acts of devotion we ought to commemorate it. With pomp and show, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other from this time forth forevermore."

--John Adams



The second study of Florida and the Revolution sponsored by the Commission was *Tories, Dons, and Rebels: British West Florida in the American Revolution*, by J. Barton Starr, Assistant Professor of History at Troy State University, Fort Rucker, Alabama. This study became part of the publications program by quite a different route from the Wright book. Originally Starr's doctoral dissertation, written under J. Leitch Wright at Florida State University, the manuscript was submitted to the University of Florida Press in 1973. It met the necessary scholarly requirements, but the Press lacked funds for its publication. In mid-1975 the Press approached Samuel Proctor with the project. He, in turn, asked the Commission to finance the book's publication out of its royalties from the Facsimile Series. Dr. William Adams and William B. Harvey also encouraged the commissioners to adopt the project, which they did at their January 1976 meeting. An edition of 2,000 copies, at a cost to the Commission of \$7,500, was published in 1977.

Tories, Dons, and Rebels, as its title suggests, is a discussion of British West Florida in the American Revolutionary War, including both its struggle with Spain in the international phase of that war and the area's growth resulting from its service as a haven for loyalist refugees.

In addition to its own program, the Bicentennial Commission sponsored other historical publications through its grants program. For example, it contributed \$6,998 to the University of West Florida for *A Narrative History of Pantón, Leslie and Company*, \$1,500 to Florida State University for the monograph *Florida Enters The Union*, and \$3,513 to the Florida Historical Society for compilation and publication of an index to the *Florida Historical Quarterly* from 1957 to the present.



"I never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence....I have often inquired of myself what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together....it was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance."

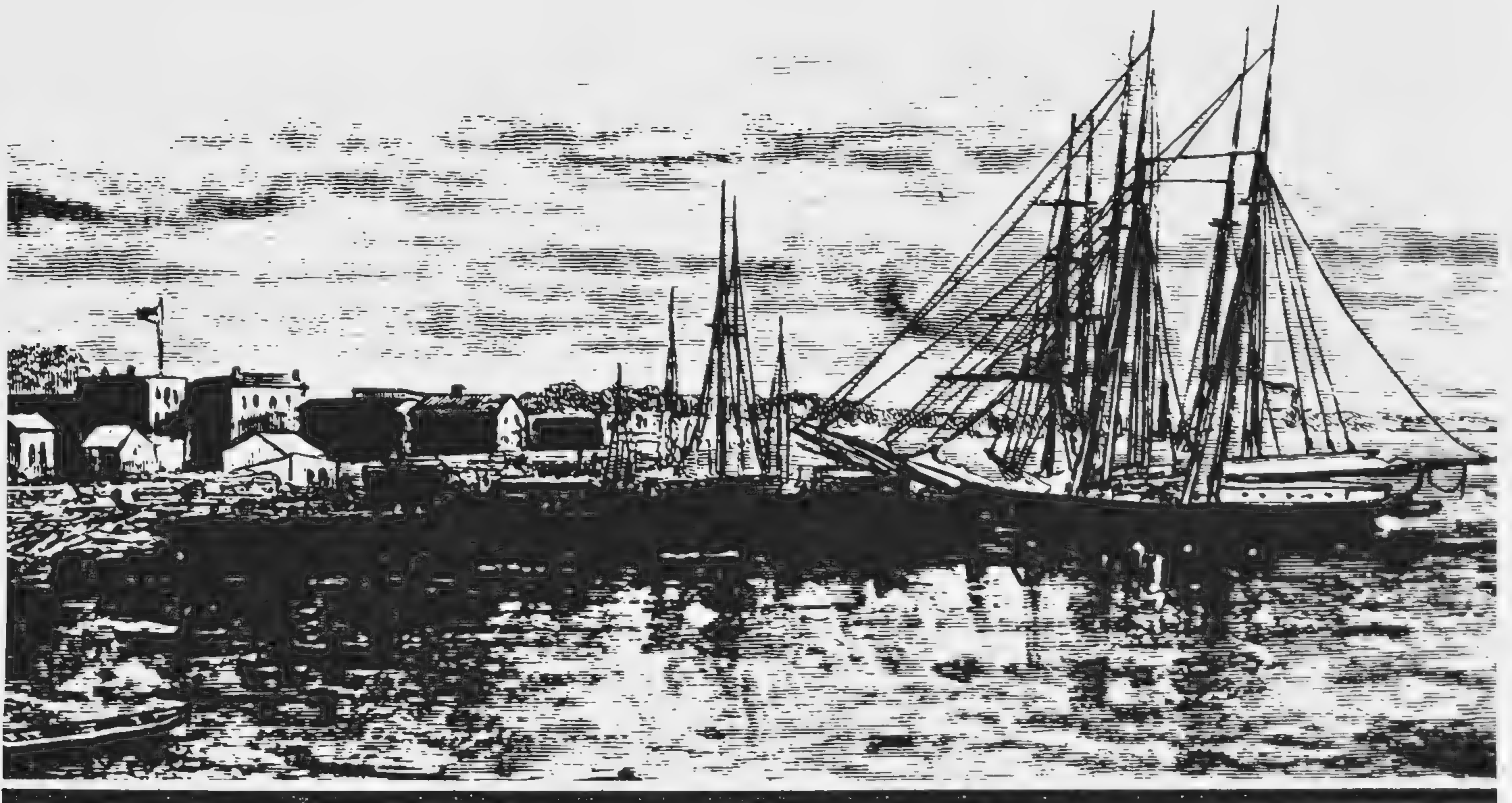
--Abraham Lincoln
Speech in Independence Hall
Philadelphia (22 Feb. 1861)

However, the major emphasis was upon county histories which the Commission encouraged through matching grants to interested Action '76 steering committees and by highlighting such studies as possible Bicentennial projects. Only a few Florida counties could boast substantial historical analyses; many others were served by only the most superficial of works, and some lacked local histories altogether. The Bicentennial celebration, with its emphasis on heritage, offered an excellent opportunity to remedy the situation. The idea was discussed informally by various people, but it was Pat Dodson who, at the March 1971 Commission meeting, officially suggested that the Commission provide general guidelines for the writing of histories in all sixty-seven of the state's counties. Accordingly, the staff provided general guidelines containing information on planning and producing local historical studies. Professional historians Dr. Jerrell H. Shofner, Chairman of the Department of History at Florida Technological University, and Dr. Harold W. Snider of the University of North Florida, donated their time to assist local steering committees in locating qualified scholars to write the histories.

In all, the Commission made fifteen grants totalling \$37,467.25 for local historical publications. Of these 11 helped finance general histories for the counties of Baker, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Orange, Putnam, and Volusia. Four grants aided production of specialized local studies in Palm Beach, Pinellas St. Johns, and Union counties. Some areas planned their projects carefully, set high standards of quality, fully exploited their own resources, and, most important, engaged competent people, some lay, some professional, to carry out the research and writing. The results were apparent in the excellence of the histories produced under their auspices. Other areas neglected to adequately plan their projects or assigned them to unqualified personnel, either of necessity or through over-estimates of ability. Consequently, their publications had little enduring value.

Further contributions to county and local history were produced without Commission funding. These included Escambia County's Pensacola Series, initiated in 1972 with *Colonial Pensacola*, edited by James R. McGovern, and sponsored by the Pensacola-Escambia County Development Commission; Lee's *The Sea Shell Islands, A History of Sanibel and Captiva*, by Elinore M. Dormer; Alachua's *A Sesquicentennial Tribute*, edited by John B. Opdyke and sponsored by the Alachua County Historical Commission; Dade's *Tequesta*, by Marty Grafton and sponsored by the Historical Association of Southern Florida; and various others.

There were also numerous other volumes, not necessarily historical, published in conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration. Their supporters ranged from official Action '76 committees to local governments to civic clubs to public-spirited business associations to profit-oriented individuals hoping to cash in on the observance. They included cookbooks, such as the *Florida Heritage Cookbook*, by Marina Polvay and Marilyn Fellman; historical photo albums, like the volumes in Seeman's *Historic Cities Series*, commemorative books on the order of the *Melbourne Bicentennial Book*, edited by Norenda B. McKemy and Elaine Murray Stone and sponsored by the Melbourne Bicentennial Committee; ethnic studies like Dr. Jose Balseiro's *Hispanic Presence in Florida*, published by Third Century USA; and miscellaneous guidebooks, pamphlets, and flyers on almost any subject that could somehow be related to the Bicentennial.



The publications described above remain as tangible achievements, but the Commission also began two other historical projects that never reached fruition, and these must be mentioned as well. One project, specifically proposed as part of the publications program as early as the September 1971 meeting, was the production of three pamphlets describing events in Florida during the American Revolution. The first was to list political, economic, and social events in Florida from 1763, the beginning of the British occupation, until the outbreak of the Revolution in July 1776. The second was to cover similar facts for the period July 1776 to 1784, when, as a result of the Revolution, Florida was returned to Spanish control. The third booklet was to provide a bibliography on 18th century Florida. Since the chief purpose of the pamphlets was to make factual material on the Revolutionary period in Florida available to primary and secondary school teachers and, through them, to their students, the Publications Committee intended to distribute them free to schools, as well as provide limited numbers to the media. Data had been collected and edited for the booklets by March 1972. In November, Proctor requested that the Commission allocate \$800 to publish the first two booklets. The Commission approved, but the project became stalled. It was revived at the January 1974 meeting, when Thomas Todd offered the cooperation of the Department of Education in producing the booklets. By April, Todd reported to Kemp that the Department had approved sponsorship of the series and requested make-ups for the pamphlets. The project failed to advance further, however.

Another idea that failed to materialize was production of a series of monographs on the history of British Florida. Two specialized studies were envisioned. Dr. Jack D. L. Holmes, Professor of History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was to prepare one on the activities of Bernardo de Galvez in West Florida. Captain John Ware, riverboat pilot and self-taught scholar, was to write a biography of George Gauld, a cartographer and scientist who mapped much of the Gulf coast between Pensacola and Tampa. However, Holmes did not finish his manuscript in time for publication under Commission sponsorship, and Ware died before he could complete his study.

There were other ideas, such as Johnnie Ruth Clarke's suggestion for a black history of Florida, that never went beyond the discussion stage because they required more basic research than could be accomplished before 1976. Thus, there remain valuable projects for a future Tricentennial commission to consider.

Although written about the past as part of the present Bicentennial celebration, these publications will continue to provide benefits for the future. Dozens of formerly unobtainable books are now readily available to anyone who wishes to read them. Data uncovered through new research now fills in some of the blank pages in Florida's past, and represents a permanent contribution to historical knowledge.

This body of knowledge will continue to expand, assisted by the revolving publication fund that the Commission created out of its profits from the sale of the Facsimile Series, symposia proceedings, and other books. The fund, held at the University Presses of Florida in Gainesville, will be used to finance publication of worthwhile scholarly contributions to *Floridiana*. Indeed, the Commission approved three studies proposed to it at the May 1977 meeting by Executive Director Adams. These include a biography of Daniel Ladd by Jerrell Shofner, a collection of historic maps by William S. Coker, and an analysis of the Spanish period by Eugene Lyons. After the expiration of the Bicentennial Commission, the revolving fund will continue to be administered by the Press and by the Florida Department of Commerce, which was designated as the successor agency to the Commission. Following a resolution by the Commission, made at its last meeting, the Secretary of Commerce will employ a group of knowledgeable scholars to recommend further works for publication.

Florida Bicentennial Symposia

Partly an educational project, partly a publications program, the Florida Bicentennial Symposia were a series of five annual scholarly conferences held at five state universities, sponsored jointly by the universities and the Bicentennial Commission. Eighteenth century Florida, the general theme of the conferences, was selected because Florida's role before and during the American Revolution had never been fully recounted. The symposia offered an opportunity to collect and publish a body of scholarly research on various aspects of political, economic, social, and intellectual life in the colonies at the time of the Revolution. Individual themes of eighteenth century Florida and its borderlands, its relations with the Caribbean, frontier life, Florida and the Revolutionary South, and the impact of the Revolution on the area focused each conference on one significant issue. While most of the papers were presented by historians, each conference included participants from other humanities and social sciences in order to broaden the scope of the discussions. Thus, the conferences considered not only historical subjects, but also architecture, literature, theater, and music, as well as archaeology and sociology.

The symposia series, like the facsimile project, was undertaken by the Research and Publications Committee, whose chairman, Samuel Proctor, both developed the concept and served as general coordinator for the program. Initially suggested at the July 1971 meeting, and approved at the September session, the series was one of the earliest Commission projects to bear fruit: the first symposium took place May 18-20, 1972, at the University of Florida. As each annual colloquium was a joint venture between the Commission and one of the state universities, the series satisfied statutory requirements that bound state university presidents to cooperate with the Commission "in the encouragement, coordination, and publicity of scholarly works and presentations on the history, culture, political thought, and commemoration of the American Revolution."

Concentrating on the theme "Eighteenth Century Florida and Its Borderlands," participants at the Gainesville conference heard seven papers delivered by prominent scholars, including John J. TePaske on fugitive slaves and Spanish slave policy, 1607-1764; Helen Hornbeck Tanner on Indian intrigues of the Revolutionary era; Michael G. Kammen on the unique and the universal in the history of New World colonization; Robert R. Rea on British West Florida as a diplomatic pawn; Louis DeVorsey on Gerard DeBrahm's East Florida; Samuel Wilson, Jr. on architecture in eighteenth century West Florida; and Jessie J. Poesch on colonial painting and furniture in Florida. Although some of the participants were nationally known, such as Pulitzer Prize winner Kammen, conference attendance was quite low. Like all the symposia, this one was organized cooperatively by Proctor, a university faculty committee on arrangements, and the school's Department of Special Programs.

The second colloquium, held June 1-2, 1973, at Florida International University in Miami, dealt with "Eighteenth Century Florida and the Caribbean" because, although the Florida colonies were closely tied to that region, very little research had been done on the general subject. For this conference, scholars were recruited not only from the United States, but also from Puerto Rico and the West Indies, and included such noted researchers as Johns Hopkins historian Jack P. Greene, and Harvard sociologist Orlando Patterson. Again, seven papers comprised the major part of the program. Richard B. Sheridan related the British sugar planters to the contemporary Atlantic world; William S. Coker concentrated on the entrepreneurial exploits of Panton, Leslie and Company; Sir Philip Manderson Sherlock reviewed the West Indian experience; Orlando Patterson discussed kinship and social organization among Jamaican slaves, 1655-1830; Barry W. Higman carried his study of slaves in the British Caribbean into the nineteenth century; R. Duncan Mathewson analyzed Jamaican subcultures with archaeological evidence; and Charles H. Fairbanks described the changing culture of St. Augustine during the 1700's.

"Eighteenth Century Florida: Life on the Frontier" was the focus of the third annual symposium, which met at Florida Technological University in Orlando on March 22-23, 1974. After greetings from University President Charles N. Millican, the conference turned to an examination of the roles and life styles of important segments of Florida's population during that formative period of its history. Dr. Robert M. Calhoun, Geraldine M. Meroney, and Mary Beth Norton devoted their papers to discussions of British loyalists in the Floridas and other frontier areas; Bertram Wallace Korn described the Jews in West Florida; James H. O'Donnell concentrated on Indian activities along the frontier; Roland C. McConnell analyzed black life and activities in West Florida and on the Gulf Coast. David D. Mays presented a production history of Florida's first play; and David Z. Kushner discussed the music of the southern frontier. In conjunction with the conference, the Orlando school's Theater Department produced a play that had been presented in 1783 in St. Augustine as a benefit to aid loyalist refugees. And, despite rain, costumed students led the participants in a torchlit parade across campus. Dr. Jerrell H. Shofner, chairman of the History Department, coordinated the local arrangements.

Florida State University in Tallahassee hosted the fourth symposium, "Eighteenth Century Florida and the Revolutionary South," held March 21-22, 1975, in the chamber of the State House of Representatives. Four of the papers presented dealt with Revolutionary history, including David Chestnutt's discussion of South Carolina's impact on East Florida; Gary D. Olson's description of Thomas Brown and the East



The Brokaw-McDougall House in Tallahassee.

Florida Rangers; Robin Fabel's analysis of West Florida's place in British strategy during the Revolution; and Thomas D. Watson's study of Panton, Leslie and Company in Spanish West Florida. Two papers, Stephen E. Meats' discussion of William Gilmore Simms, and Calhoun Winton's study of English books in early Florida, concentrated on literature. Social events scheduled along with the colloquium included a reception given by Governor and Mrs. Askew at the Governor's Mansion and a reception at the historic Brokaw-McDougall House. Dr. J. Leitch Wright, Professor of History at Florida State University, served as co-chairman of the conference, which was a cooperative effort of the Department of History and the Bicentennial Commission.

The fifth and final conference "Eighteenth Century Florida: The Impact of the Revolution," took place at the University of West Florida in Pensacola on March 18-20, 1976. The papers presented included analyses of loyalists in East Florida during and after the Revolution by J. Leitch Wright, Jr. and J. Barton Starr; a history of population and family during the second Spanish period by Theodore G. Corbett; a discussion of religion in both British and Spanish Florida by Michael J. Gannon; a description of St. Augustine's architecture by Albert Manucy; an evaluation of the social commentary found in artifacts from St. Augustine by Thomas G. Ledford; and a study of the clothing of southern frontier women by Anna C. Eberly. Dr. James McGovern, Chairman of the Faculty of History at the university, served as co-chairman of the colloquium.

Each of the five symposia was financed through Commission grants of \$5,000 to the individual universities involved. This money was used to pay travel and per diem expenses for the participants, as well as the costs related to organizing and publicizing the conferences. Neither the participants nor the conference chairmen received honoraria for their services.

In order to make the papers a permanent contribution to knowledge of Florida's role in the Revolution, and to make them available to a wider audience than could have attended the conferences, the Commission sponsored publication of the symposia proceedings. Publication grants to the University Presses of Florida were budgeted at \$10,000 or \$2,000 for each of the volumes. The books were published in initial editions of 2,000 and sold through the Press. Under an agreement similar to that for the facsimiles, the Commission received royalties on sales which were deposited in a revolving fund to finance future publications.

The Florida Bicentennial Symposia series, by providing a forum for competent scholars to present original research papers and by publishing those papers, made a permanent contribution to our understanding of Florida during the eighteenth century and during the American Revolution. The quality of both the scholars involved and the papers presented was recognized in 1976 when the American Association for State and Local History granted its First Award of Merit to the Commission for the Bicentennial Symposia.

Bicentennial Projects in Education

At the outset of its existence, the Commission was concerned with involving students and educational institutions in the Bicentennial celebration. The statute establishing the Commission included as members the state Commissioner of Education and a representative of the Board of Regents, as well as specifically directing state university presidents to cooperate with the commemoration. At the organizational meeting, December 18, 1970, Chairman Pat Dodson noted the stress on education in national Bicentennial plans, and called for an effort to make young people aware of their identity as Americans. Robert Williams and Samuel Proctor both emphasized the need for implementing instruction in Florida history in state schools. Nevertheless, the Commission did not establish an Education Committee until March 1975, nor did it ever sponsor an elaborate state level education program. The reasons were, first, that the Commission was intended to be primarily an advisory body for a truly grassroots celebration. That placed chief responsibility for local programs, educational or otherwise, on the local areas themselves, a responsibility that was reinforced in the Commission's plan for Bicentennial Schools Festival Week. Secondly, numerous educational programs of excellent quality, such as the Bicentennial Youth Debates and the Junior Committees of the Bicentennial Youth Debates and the Junior Committees of Correspondence, were developed at the national level and vigorously promoted. The Commission assisted implementation of these projects within the state principally by making information about them available to local committees. A Commission sponsored schools program would merely have duplicated the national and local efforts. Thus, the Commission's major education efforts were the Florida Bicentennial Symposia, discussed in another section of this report, and Schools Festival Week.

Before 1975, the Commission made several suggestions encouraging schools and universities to commemorate the Bicentennial. A plan, developed by the Department of Education and a citizens' committee, to implement the teaching of Florida history in public schools was introduced and endorsed by the Commission at its March 1971 meeting. Florida history was added to the curriculum the following fall. In the same year, the Commission contacted various state agencies, including the Department of Education, encouraging them to add Bicentennial projects to their budget requests. Chairman Tom Adams wrote to state university presidents in 1972, urging them to set up Bicentennial committees and programs. This request was reinforced in 1974 with the creation of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's Bicentennial Campus Recognition Program and further letters to university, college, and junior college presidents.

Beginning in 1973, Commissioner of Education Floyd T. Christian kept the board advised of his department's plans through his representative, Thomas C. Todd. The Commission endorsed and aided such actions as the designation of high school and college graduating classes of 1976 as the "Bicentennial Class of 1976" and the creation of an ad hoc committee to formulate the department's Bicentennial programs. It also welcomed the department's proposals, such as use of the state educational television network to carry the celebration to large numbers of people, even when financial limitations prohibited Commission adoption of such schemes. When Barbara Todd, Special Programs Coordinator for the state Board of Regents, brought a proposal for professionally produced Bicentennial films to be used on educational and commercial television, the Commission actually granted an initial \$1,000 to the University System to develop a grant proposal for major funding from agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, the Commission's requirements for administration of the funds were such that the Department of Education canceled the program.

Creation of the Education Committee in March 1975 marked the initiation of a coordinated Commission effort to more widely involve students and educational facilities in the Bicentennial observance. Chaired by Mrs. Myrna B. Shevin, the committee promptly endorsed both the Bicentennial Youth Debates and the American Issues Forum, and began to develop its own program in cooperation with the Department of Education. The first project undertaken was publication of a special Bicentennial issue of Florida Schools magazine, upon which Mrs. Shevin's committee, a Department of Education Bicentennial activities committee under Shelley Boone, Editor Ruth Chapman, and the Commission staff collaborated. Since the magazine reached thousands of educators across the state, it was planned to use the special issue to disseminate information on existing and proposed national programs that could be applied in Florida: reading programs and bibliographies, sources of materials for Bicentennial music, art, and dances, ideas for relating Bicentennial programs to community schools, and trends in teaching Revolutionary period history and literature.

By far the Education Committee's most important project, and the best single example of the Commission's role as a catalyst for local programs, was Bicentennial Schools Festival Week, held April 4-10, 1976, with more than 700 schools across the state participating. And, in many communities, the festivities planned during this week were the highlight of the entire Bicentennial celebration. The purpose behind Schools Festival Week, according to Mrs. Shevin, was to allow all Florida students, from kindergarten through college, to share their energy and Bicentennial interest during a universal celebration.

Planning for the celebration began soon after the Education Committee came into being. In June 1975, Mrs. Shevin addressed meetings of the Association of District Supervisors of Education and the Association of Secondary School Principals and won endorsements of Schools Festival Week from both organizations. Similar resolutions were solicited by committee member James J. Gardener from the Cabinet and the Board of Regents. More than 3,500 brochures describing the program, suggesting possible local projects, and requesting information on plans made for the Bicentennial were sent to the state's public and private schools from elementary schools to universities. Schools also received over 3,000 red, white, and blue posters advertising Festival Week. Local Action '76 steering committees, Department of Education resource personnel, and the Commission staff all offered assistance to schools in organizing their plans.

The response to Schools Festival Week was impressive. More than 600 schools notified the Commission that they planned Bicentennial festivals. In the end, the Commission awarded certificates of recognition to 761 schools, each of which had carried out at least one Bicentennial project during Festival Week, and many of which had organized elaborate commemorations. Except in Dade County, where spring vacation pushed the observance to April 11-17, probably more Floridians celebrated the Bicentennial during the week of April 4-10, than at any other time but July 4, 1976.



Cleanup campaigns were a popular school Bicentennial activity.

All manner of events marked the weeklong festivities. Thousands of red, white, and blue clad children roamed school hallways and classrooms decorated with Bicentennial artwork. Hundreds of others appeared in plays, skits, and parades costumed as George Washington, Betsy Ross, Crispus Attucks, or the American eagle. Patriotic music rang out at concerts and musicales across the state. Some events were somber: children at St. Petersburg's Pasadena Elementary gathered to watch the American Legion burn worn out flags. Others were pure fun, such as the Ben Franklin Kite Flying Day at Grover Cleveland Elementary in Tampa. Community improvement figured in many celebrations: dozens of schools held trash bashes to cleanup their campuses or neighborhoods, and some, like Crestview High School in Okaloosa County, held voter registration drives for eighteen-year-olds. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of "Bicentennial Minutes" opened the day in numerous schools. Many schools sponsored edible celebrations, such as the old-time ox-roast at Edgewood Elementary in Fort Myers or Grandma's Kitchen and Country Store at Tampa's Clair-Mel Elementary. And essay contests on Bicentennial themes prompted many students to take a more serious look at reasons for the commemoration. In addition to encouraging students to commemorate the nation's 200th anniversary, the Commission also hoped to educate them about the heritage of their own state. To that end, it supported adoption of Florida history into the public school curriculum, and, especially, donated 50,000 copies of *A Heritage Revisited*, the guidebook to the Florida Bicentennial Trail, to public school libraries for use by the children as reference books.

Florida Bicentennial Trail

Not a trail in any special geographic sense, the Florida Bicentennial Trail instead wound its way through time, using fifty-two carefully chosen historic sites as tangible way stations along the path of Florida's rich history. Thus, ancient Indian mounds, Spanish fortresses, ruins of once prosperous plantations, ornate Victorian resort hotels, and rocket gantries all figured as graphic illustrations of various important periods. Taken as an integrated unit, the Trail was balanced historically to give an even-handed picture of the past, without unduly emphasizing or neglecting any major period or subject. It was balanced geographically, too, insofar as that was possible, to locate sites in all parts of the state. The Trail guidebook, *A Heritage Revisited*, maintained this historical balance and perspective for those who did not visit all the sites. Taken individually, the Trail's component sites were the best graphic interpretations available of particular historical subjects. Each was a worthwhile exhibit in and of itself.

The basis for the Bicentennial Trail was included in the 1970 statute creating the Commission, which specifically provided that the Commission should determine, through inventory, the sites, artifacts, buildings, significant fine and commercial arts, monuments, structures, and other evidence of Florida's cultural heritage which were appropriate for preservation or development in commemoration of the American Revolution or other historical events. This formidable task was assigned to the Committee on Significant Sites and Properties, chaired by Ney C. Landrum, Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks. Although the committee initially considered several ideas, such as creation of three regional trails, and establishment of a list analogous to the National Register of Historic Places, which would have involved recognition of a large number of independent, unrelated historic sites, it finally adopted Landrum's suggestion for coordinating a smaller number of carefully selected sites into a meaningful historical narrative. These general objectives were outlined to the Commission at its July 1971 meeting. At the March 1972 session, Landrum presented specific plans for development of the Florida Bicentennial Trail and recommended twelve developed and five undeveloped sites for adoption into the system. The Commission accepted all recommendations and formally authorized the Sites Committee to proceed with the Trail project.

Some of the Commission's major programs underwent several metamorphoses, but the Bicentennial Trail was implemented very much as it was described in the March 1972 concept paper Landrum presented to the Commission. His outline established both methods and criteria for selecting component sites for the Trail. First, Florida's history was categorized into six major chronological periods: (1) Florida aborigines; (2) discovery, exploration, and settlement, 1513-1763; (3) changing ownership, 1763-1821; (4) U. S. territory and early statehood, 1821-1861; (5) the War Between the States and Reconstruction, 1861-1877; and (6) development and progress, 1877-1976. Next, the state was divided geographically into seven regions. As each site was screened, it was placed on a chart reflecting this matrix of period, theme, and region to ensure balance in the final selections. By statute, all Trail sites were to be chosen from a master list of significant sites and properties prepared by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. In addition to Archives' requirements for inclusion on the master list, sites had to meet the strictly-enforced criteria of the Sites Committee before they could become Trail components. Each Trail site not only had to tangibly illustrate state history through direct relation to historical events, persons, or Florida culture, but also to offer potential for development free from commercialism or vulgarity, to provide historical or geographical balance, and to be conveniently accessible to the public. Time and budget limitations were further considerations, especially for sites requiring development before they could be opened to the public.



The Kingsley Plantation.

As Landrum and his committee were eager to get started, and since there was considerable work to do to complete the Trail by their January 1, 1976, deadline, actual selection of sites began even before the concept paper was finished. In November 1971 the Division of Archives, History and Records Management provided an initial master inventory of about 140 potential sites. These were evaluated by William A. Buckley, Jr., the Commission staff member assigned primary responsibility for the Trail, and by Landrum's committee. Twelve of the best sites, including such unquestionably important properties as the Castillo de San Marcos, Gamble Mansion, Vizcaya, and the Kennedy Space Center, were chosen as prototypes for the Trail. Five undeveloped sites were also recommended for inclusion, provided they could be sufficiently developed for public display. One of them, Fort George, was incorporated into the final Trail. This rudimentary, twelve-site Trail was officially inaugurated in ceremonies at the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine on the Fourth of July, 1972.

Before the Commission endorsed the final list of fifty-two Trail sites, the committee and staff screened more than two thousand potential sites. Most of these were taken from Archives' master inventory, but some were nominated by outside groups and others were suggested by committee members themselves. The stress on historical balance occasionally caused difficulty. Sometimes there was no adequately developed site representative of a particular theme. One such gap was the lack of a Spanish mission site. The Commission granted the Division of Archives, History and Records Management \$10,130 for identification and archaeological studies of eleven mission sites, in hopes of acquiring at least one for reconstruction and interpretation as a Trail site. However, although the research was completed, it was not possible, given time and budget limitations, to acquire and develop any of the missions. Another surprising gap was the non-existence of a suitable representative of antebellum plantation agriculture in north Florida. The committee tried to work around that problem by incorporating the Stephen Foster Center in White Springs into the Trail, and by encouraging the Center's sponsors to emphasize early plantation agriculture in their program. Sometimes the problem was an embarrassment of riches; when several quality sites were available to represent one theme it was necessary to omit one or more in order to maintain the Trail's overall historical balance. Thus, for example, the committee chose the Gamble Mansion to illustrate early sugar cane production, and had to reject the Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins, despite vehement lobbying by various Citrus County organizations. Nevertheless, despite these difficulties, a fifty-one-site Bicentennial Trail was completed and presented for the Commission's approval in November 1974. The Commission unanimously endorsed the list, although Dr. Leedell W. Neyland suggested the addition of the Mary McLeod Bethune Home. Minor changes and substitutions later brought the final total to fifty-two sites.



Ft. Clinch, a state historic site, is part of the Florida Bicentennial Trail.

The sun never shined on
a cause of greater worth--
not the affair of a City,
a County, Province,
or a Kingdom--
but of a Continent.

Thomas Paine

Cape Florida Lighthouse.



The Bicentennial Trail was a Commission project, but the Commission did not directly control any of the sites. Rather, it coordinated the entire system, while the daily administration of individual sites was left in the hands of their separate sponsors. Of the fifty-two sites, twenty-two were operated by the Division of Recreation and Parks or scheduled to become part of that system, but the rest were run by the federal government, other state agencies, assorted local governments, and historical societies. Hence, before sites could be incorporated into the Trail, agreements had to be reached with the sponsors. These agreements called for the Commission to furnish special Trail markers and Bicentennial flags and to include the site in the guidebook. For their part, the sponsors promised to display the markers and flags, to maintain suitable hours for public visitation, and to perpetuate the character, interpretive themes and quality of development existing at their site.

An integral part of the Bicentennial Trail was its guidebook, *A Heritage Revisited*, which was considered essential even in the earliest plans for the project. Several major purposes lay behind production of the book. First, it was to serve as an informational guide to the individual sites, describing their location, access routes, sponsors, hours of operation, and pertinent historical data. Second, taken as a whole, the book was designed to be a useful summary of Florida's history and heritage. Third, it offered a vehicle for publicity and promotion of the Trail.

Production of *A Heritage Revisited*, did not begin in earnest until late 1974, after the final sites had been selected. Landrum and William Buckley, who was responsible for most of the research and writing, coordinated preparation of the guidebook, while the Department of Commerce handled artwork, layout, and physical production. Although original plans called for publication by January 1976, various delays postponed appearance of the text until May 1976.

Materializing as a handsome, softbound book of 134 pages, the guidebook was much more than a simple list of Trail sites. Two-page or three-page articles on separate sites were arranged in six chapters, based on the original chronological divisions of Florida's history from Indian pre-history to the space age. Although centering on one specific site, each article went far beyond mere description of that site to set it in its historical context. Thus, the total text was really a brief history of the state. Each article also provided practical information about the sites' sponsors, hours of operation, and location. Small maps showed visitors how to reach the sites. Besides an introductory overview of Florida's heritage, the text also contained a selected list for further reading on Florida and a fold-out state map showing the general location of all fifty-two sites.

"I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance . . . The flames kindled on the 4th of July have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism."

--Thomas Jefferson



The majority of the more than 90,000 guidebooks printed were distributed free of charge as reference books for libraries. The Commission sent 50,000 copies to public school libraries, 1,700 copies to public libraries, 400 copies to libraries at universities, colleges, and junior colleges, 100 copies to the State Library, and 100 copies to the Library of Congress. In addition, copies of the guidebook were given to members of the Florida Legislature, Cabinet, Bicentennial Commission, congressional delegation, Florida Supreme Court justices, and county Action '76 chairmen. Cases of books were delivered to the fifty-two Trail sites, Third Century, the Division of Tourism, and the Department of Natural Resources. Single copies went to daily and weekly newspapers within Florida and to all other states' Bicentennial commissions. The seventeen major institutions managed by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, such as training schools, mental hospitals, and district offices regulating nursing homes, received copies, as did all public vocational and technical schools, the Board of Regents, and various historical societies. The Commission also complied with more than 800 requests for guidebooks from private citizens. Approximately 80,000 copies were distributed in that manner, with the remainder reserved for continuing individual and institutional requests.

Since the Commission was involved only with coordination of the Bicentennial Trail, not with actual development or operation of the sites, the cost of the project was relatively low. Direct Commission grants for the Trail totalled \$89,346, of which \$67,000 was budgeted for production and distribution of the guidebooks, and \$3,846 was given to the University of Florida for a series of radio tapes describing and publicizing individual sites. Thus, the net cost of coordinating the fifty-two-site Trail system was only \$18,500. However, the Commission did make several grants to various organizations for development of sites and properties that were eventually incorporated into the Trail. The Division of Archives, History and Records Management received \$17,000 for historical and archaeological research on Fort George, \$85,100 for similar research on Fort Foster and Indian Key (which were not at the time of the grant earmarked for Trail inclusion), and \$10,130 for archaeological studies of eleven Spanish mission sites. One of the mission sites was intended for development as a Trail site, but this proved impossible, given time and monetary restrictions. Jacksonville's Joseph E. Lee Memorial Center was funded with Commission grants totalling \$14,462. A \$10,000 grant went for restoration of Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge in Stuart. Substantial grants also helped restore and preserve significant buildings and properties in historic sections of Pensacola, Tallahassee, and St. Augustine.

Both the Division of Archives, History and Records Management and the Division of Recreation and Parks cooperated closely with the Commission in developing the Bicentennial Trail. Not only did Archives provide the master inventory, as required by statute, but it also donated office space and use of its facilities for staff member Buckley. Furthermore, the division, using Commission grants, carried out historical and archaeological studies for such possible Trail sites as Indian Key, Fort Foster, and several Spanish mission sites. Recreation and Parks also aided in screening potential Trail sites and administered twenty-two of the fifty-two sites.

Since the Commission hoped to make the Trail a perpetual benefit to Florida citizens, both divisions will continue their involvement with the project after expiration of the Commission, with the Division of Archives, History and Records Management assuming responsibility for future administration of the Trail.

Bicentennial Commission Exhibits

In order to take the Bicentennial to the people of Florida, the Commission sponsored two statewide touring exhibitions. By far the more important one was the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, which visited some 100 communities and was seen by about 850,000 people, while the Historic Florida Architecture Exhibit was much more limited in scope. When planning for projects began, Miami was expected to host a national Bicentennial exposition, so the Commission supported that effort rather than duplicate it with another pageant.

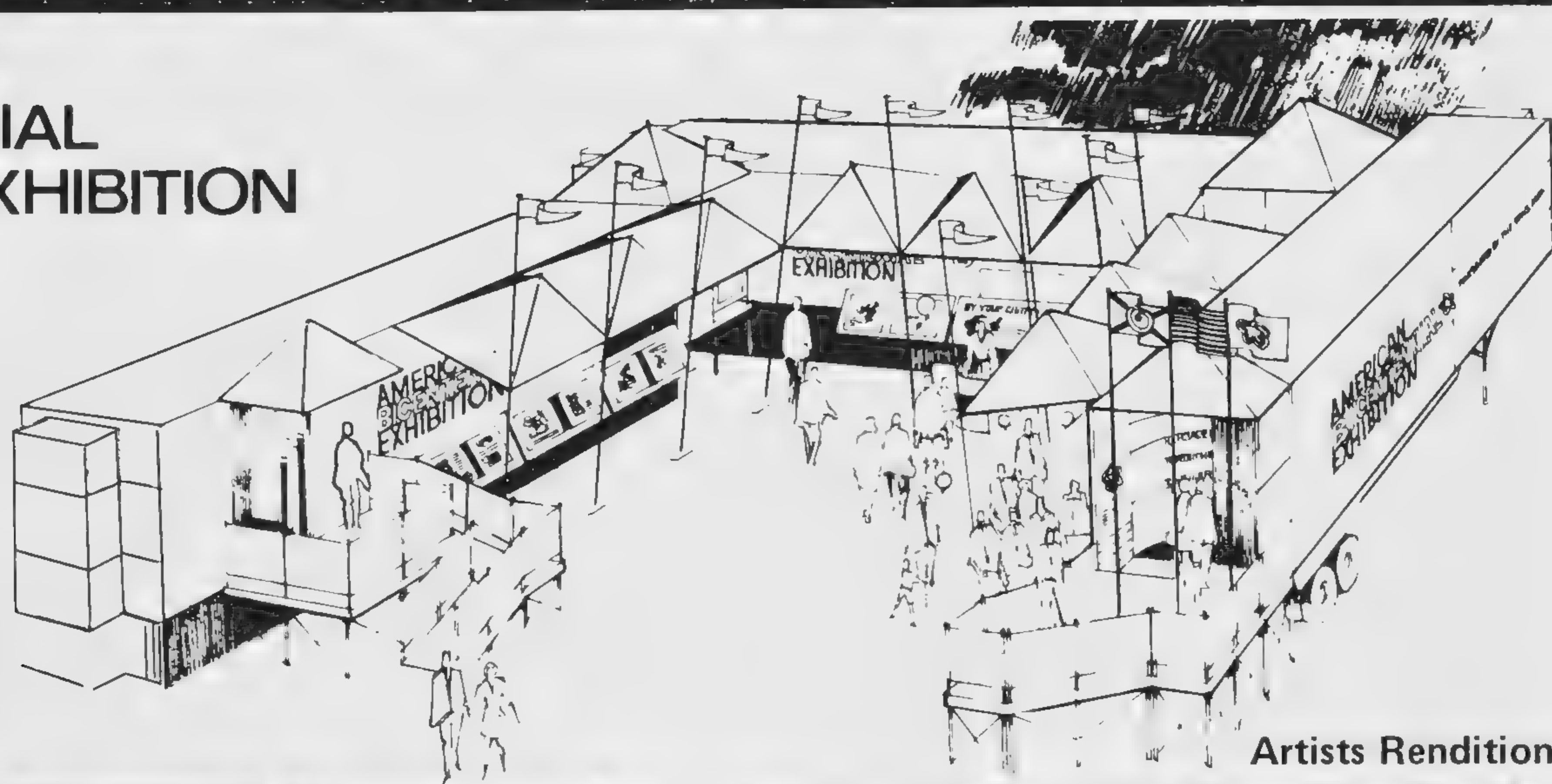
The purpose behind the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit was a simple one: to carry the Bicentennial celebration into every little town across the state, so that even Sopchoppy and Two Egg would be included in the national observance, and to inform Floridians of their state's past, present, and potential. It was hoped that arrival of a high quality exhibit in such places would spark the kind of natural excitement that used to greet old time medicine shows and tent circuses. The exhibit was also to serve as a focal point for concurrent local activities, such as parades, Bicentennial barbecues, band concerts of patriotic music, and displays on area history and Action '76 projects, all resulting in a real Bicentennial jubilee. Thus, although major parts of the exhibit considered Florida's heritage and its horizons, the primary thrust of the overall program was toward Festival USA.

The Traveling Exhibit was the principal project of the Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics Committee, chaired by F. Blair Reeves, Professor of Architecture at the University of Florida and an expert in historic preservation. It was Reeves who suggested the basic idea for the exhibit at the December 1970 meeting even as the Commission itself was being established. Considerable planning was necessary before the idea could be translated into reality. At the September 1971 session, the Commission granted the committee authority to seek professional evaluation of the idea for a mobile exhibit to "take the Bicentennial to the people." Shortly thereafter, Bill Miller, Commission Director, J. D. Dickinson, Director of the Florida State Museum, and Vincent J. Gabianelli, Chairman of the Department of Interpretation of the Florida State Museum, met for exploratory discussions which resulted in recommendations for self-contained exhibits requiring minimal erection time and manpower. Gabianelli was asked to prepare a tentative budget for such a project. Based on his previous experience with traveling exhibits, he estimated that \$500,000 would be necessary to produce the kind of display the Commission wanted.

With the assumption of a half million dollar budget, development of specific proposals for the exhibit began. At this point the committee envisaged three exhibits, representing the past, the present, and the future. These displays would travel the state independently, but would periodically join for presentation in larger communities. The first consideration was finding someone to handle the project. Since the Florida State Museum, then the only state agency equipped to undertake such major exhibits, was already fully committed to creation of displays for its own new building, it could not produce the Bicentennial exhibit. However, Dickinson and Gabianelli did offer to supervise the Commission's program, although actual design and construction would have to be entrusted to outside professionals. Thus, in spring of 1972, Reeves and his committee met with four prominent design consultants. Two of these, Chermayeff and Geismar Associates of New York, and Gart Urban and Associates of Miami, were asked, for fees of \$2,500 each, to submit detailed proposals for three traveling exhibits.

While the two consulting firms were working on their plans for the exhibit, the Commission became concerned over the limitations of its budget. Half a million dollars was considered too much to spend on any single Bicentennial project. Accordingly, in July 1972, the Executive Committee reduced the Traveling Exhibit budget by one half, to \$250,000, and authorized the designers to proceed on that basis.

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL FLORIDA EXHIBITION



Artists Rendition

The designers made their presentations to the Commission at its September 1972 meeting. Following the Exhibits Committee's recommendation, and the Executive Committee's unanimous endorsement, the full Commission formally approved Chermayeff and Geismar's proposal as most appropriate and suitable to the Commission's needs. The concept called for five display units, the first on Florida's heritage and history, the second and third on the state's flora and fauna, and the fourth on the state's future, and the fifth open for development, perhaps for administrative and public information purposes. The units would travel in trailers, but be housed in special inflatable structures that would be almost as exciting as the exhibits inside.

However, these elaborate plans were not to be implemented. Closer examination of the Chermayeff proposal revealed that the cost for design and construction would total some \$380,000, well beyond the \$250,000 ceiling mandated by the Commission. When it became apparent that these financial and other difficulties with the Chermayeff firm could not be satisfactorily resolved, the Commission, on Gabianelli's recommendation, turned to Gart Urban of Miami, engaging that firm to develop new designs for an exhibit that would meet the budgetary criteria. Gart Urban presented the new schematics to the Executive Committee in March 1973 at its Palm Beach meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued, with Commission Chairman Tom Adams voicing concern that the project, including operation of the exhibit, would cost over \$450,000, much more than the Commission could afford without facing severe criticism. Reeves and Gabianelli countered that, while an exhibit could be produced and operated within the \$250,000 limit, it would not be of sufficiently high quality to meet the Commission's needs. Other commissioners ranged themselves on both sides of the debate, which continued into the next Executive Committee meeting in April. At this session, the Exhibits Committee proposed that \$250,000 be used for design and construction of two traveling exhibits and that operating expenses up to \$50,000 per year for two years be obtained from business and industry sources. This proposal was accepted, although it was amended at the May executive session to provide for an exhibits supervisor, whose duties would include managing the exhibit and soliciting operational funding from industry.

In July 1973, Gart Urban returned to the Commission with new exhibit models, incorporating changes requested by the Commission. These plans called for three exhibits, each emphasizing one of the Bicentennial themes of Heritage, Festival, and Horizons, and all sheltered in collapsible aluminum structures with tent-like canvas tops. The Committee on Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics endorsed the design. In September, a purchase order was issued to Urban for the design.

Work began in earnest on production of the exhibit in order to meet the January 1976 deadline for opening it to the public. Inflation forced a further major modification in design, however. Although the Commission had been most adamant about not having an exhibit that looked like a "tent show," by July 1974 it was clear that inflation had made elaborate housing impossible to obtain without seriously exceeding the budget. Gabianelli presented the Executive Committee with two alternatives to the aluminum structures, one involving tents and the other utilizing trailers. The Commission adopted the second plan, but use of trailers in turn demanded complete redesign of the exhibit and rewriting of scripts. Contracts for construction of the display were awarded in December, only seven weeks before scheduled opening of the show. Nevertheless, despite delays caused by Christmas holidays and various sub-contractors, the display was in satisfactory condition for preview showing in Tampa on February 3, 1975. Grand opening ceremonies for the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit were held in Clearwater on February 17.



The traveling Exhibit featured documents and illustrations relating to the early history of Florida.

The displays within the Traveling Exhibit were based upon the three major Bicentennial themes of Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. In the first trailer, visitors encountered depictions of Florida history. The displays began with artists' conceptions of the life style of the Ais Indians, who inhabited the peninsula 10,000 years ago, and continued with facsimile documents and artifacts illustrating the French and Spanish periods. Then, in one of the most popular displays an animated "talking head" mannequin of James Grant, first British governor of East Florida, described his experiences and problems in St. Augustine. Replicas and historic photographs portrayed the Civil War era and Reconstruction, while dramatic photographs showed how Floridians lived during the Boom Days. Exhibits in the second trailer combined the state's past, present, and future, but emphasized the present. Immediately inside the entrance, a two and one-half minute stop-motion film controlled by the visitor featured sights and scenes from throughout Florida. A plexiglass bubble display housed replicas of implements used by early settlers. On the opposite wall, transparencies depicted industry, agriculture, transportation, and other scenes of present day Florida. Concluding the exhibit was a ceiling-to-floor infrared photograph of Florida, taken by the Sky Lab astronauts, and, recessed into the Gulf of Mexico section of the photo, a scale model of the space shuttle currently being developed. The third trailer, by illustrating the problems confronting Florida today, called upon citizens to take action toward improving the state's future. Along with illustrations of the problems were potential solutions now being utilized by various communities within the state.

"To see it in our power to make a world happy~to teach mankind the art of being so ~to exhibit, on the theatre of the universe, a character hitherto unknown~and to have, as it were, a new creation entrusted to our hands, are honors that command reflection and can neither be too highly estimated nor too greatly received."

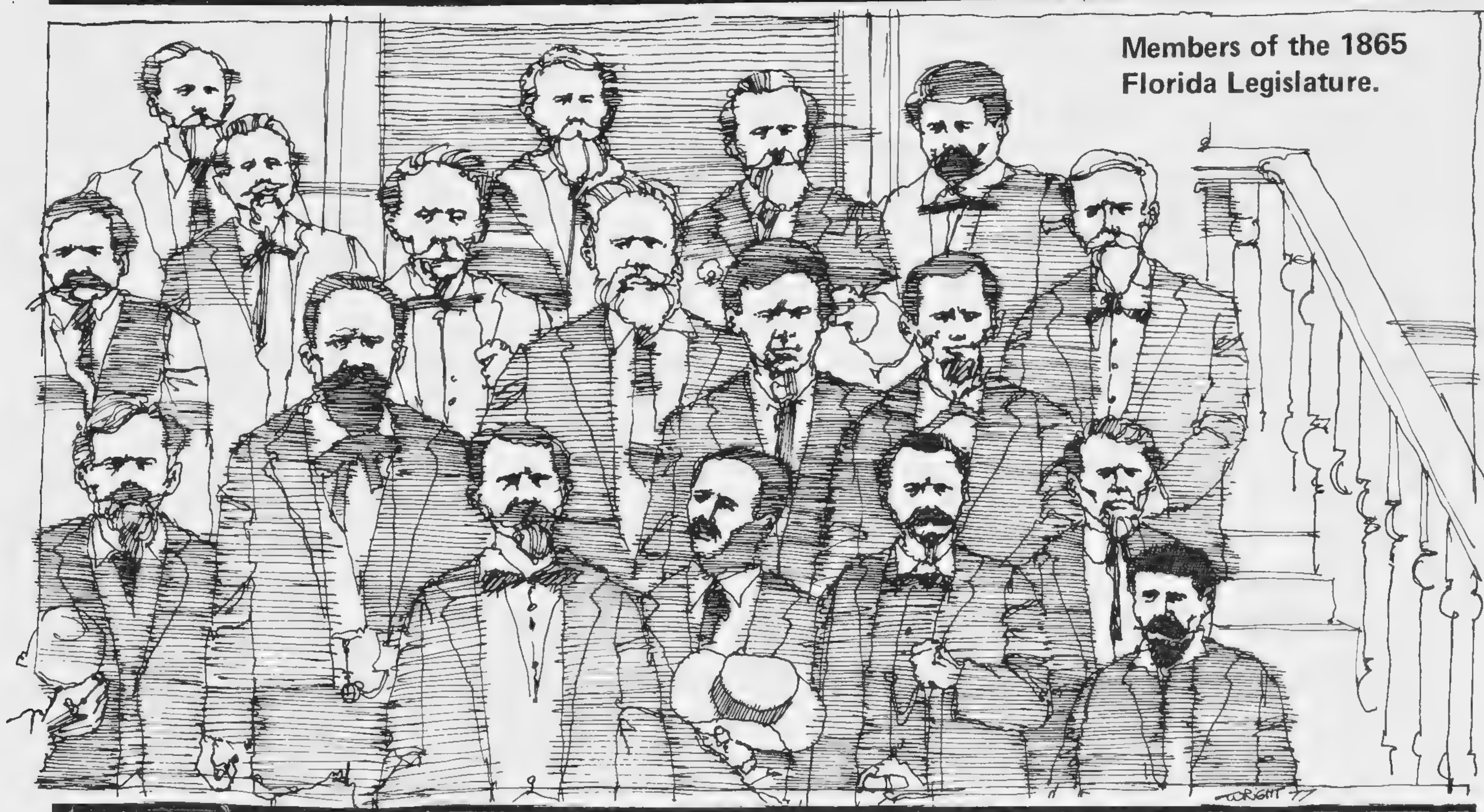
Thomas Paine

The Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit toured for nearly two years, from February 3, 1975, to December 31, 1976, during which it visited about one hundred Florida communities and was seen by some 850,000 people. Its operation was overseen by a project coordinator who scheduled the stops, planned travel routes, assisted local Action '76 committees with publicity and information on the exhibit, and directed maintenance of the displays. In addition, an exhibits supervisor traveled with the show to handle transportation, on-site placement of the trailers, electrical power connections and other general maintenance.

The success of the Traveling Exhibit in each area was dependent not only on the quality of the displays themselves, but also on the assistance given the exhibit by local Action '76 steering committees, which were charged with selecting a suitable location for the trailers, publicizing arrival of the show, providing personnel to set up the displays and act as exhibit guides, and paying the local costs of operation, such as electricity. Committees were also encouraged to sponsor Bicentennial activities concurrent with and focusing on the Traveling Exhibit, and to take advantage of the exhibit to promote their own programs and projects. In some communities, energetic and efficient committees transformed the show's arrival into a real Bicentennial event, complete with bands, bunting, and a jubilee atmosphere. Some local committees scarcely bothered to publicize the exhibit, much less plan concurrent activities. Thus, interest in and attendance at the exhibit varied widely from location to location.

Actual transportation of the trailers was provided free of charge by the Florida National Guard as its major Bicentennial effort. The idea for the project developed out of conversations among Brigadier General Henry W. McMillan, Adjutant General of Florida, Brigadier General Ralph W. Cooper, Jr., (Retired), Executive Director of St. Augustine's Committee for the National Bicentennial, and Commission Director Shelton Kemp in the fall of 1974. At a meeting on October 3, 1974, the Bicentennial Commission formally requested transport of the trailers and McMillan formally committed the Guard to the project, assigning the Fifty-third Support Battalion and the Fiftieth supply and Service Battalion to provide trucks and personnel for the mission. Frequently, local unit commanders donated the necessary manpower, four or five men for half a day, to set up and dismantle the exhibit. The Florida National Guard effort both saved the Commission some \$60,000 in operating expenses and greatly simplified the complex problem of hauling the display across the state.

Other organizations also assisted operation of the Traveling Exhibit as their Bicentennial contributions. The Florida Highway Patrol, for example, escorted the exhibit convoy from location to location.



Members of the 1865
Florida Legislature.

The Florida Bankers Association offered direct financial support for operation of the Traveling Exhibit. The Association had already agreed with the Lincoln Mint to market the Florida Governor's Bicentennial Medallion, on a commission basis, through its 700-member banks, when the Commission approached it with a plan for funding the exhibit. Under an agreement between the Commission and the Association's Bicentennial Committee, the Association promised to donate up to \$90,000 of its medallion commissions toward operation of the Traveling Exhibit. In return, the Commission allocated its medallion earnings for the same purpose, agreed to publicly credit the bankers for their support with a plaque at the exhibit's entrance, and provide mini-displays for bank lobby promotion of the exhibit. Although in 1974 it was estimated that sales of the Governor's Medallions would earn the Association commissions of at least \$90,000, actual sales were disappointing. In the end, the Florida Bankers Association contributed \$24,320 to the Commission.

The Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit was so complex a project, involving so many organizations and so many cash and in-kind contributions that its overall cost cannot be reliably estimated. Nevertheless, financial data is available to indicate the scope of the project. The Commission itself was the largest source of funding, providing grants of \$271,000 for design, construction, and refurbishment of the exhibit. Most of these monies came directly from the Commission's pari-mutuel receipt earnings, but \$75,000 was provided by an American Revolution Bicentennial Administration grant received by the Commission in early 1975. Funding for operation of the exhibit was obtained from several sources. As noted above, the Florida Bankers Association donated its commissions from sale of the Florida Governor's Bicentennial Medallions. The Florida National Guard, through its provision of trucks and personnel to haul the trailers from site to site, contributed in-kind services estimated at approximately \$60,000 over the two-year operation of the show. Wherever the Traveling Exhibit visited, the local Action '76 committees were responsible for providing personnel and basic services. In many communities, space for the exhibit and utilities were donated as a public service, but some committees paid electric bills of up to \$500 for the exhibit. No calculation can be made of the value of the time contributed by local citizens and National Guardsmen who helped set up the exhibit, acted as hostesses and tour guides, worked to publicize the exhibit, and participated in concurrent activities.

Production of the Traveling Exhibit, paid for out of \$269,000 in grants to the Florida State Museum, totalled \$269,693.88, according to the Museum's final report, submitted to the Commission on April 4, 1975, by Vincent J. Gabianelli. Within this total, the principal expenditures included \$97,800 to Gart Urban and Associates for design of the displays, \$136,987.52 to Presentations South of Miami for their construction, \$24,636.78 to the Tampa Division of Fruehauf for purchase of three semi-trailers, and \$12,500 to the University of Florida, and \$11,806.12 to the Florida State Museum for overhead costs. The Commission also spent an additional \$1,400 in 1976 to pay for refurbishing the the displays.

Estimates for operation of the Traveling Exhibit were much less precise. Over the two years of exhibit operation, the Bicentennial Commission paid out perhaps \$80,000, while the Florida National Guard spent an estimated \$60,000. The total expenses incurred by local Action '76 committees and other sponsoring organizations cannot be calculated.

Although the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit finished its tour of the state, its contents were not discarded. In January 1977, the displays themselves, minus a few artifacts borrowed from outside sources, went on permanent loan from the Florida State Museum in Gainesville, which as grant recipient owned them, to the Division of Archives, History and Records Management's new Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee, where they will be adapted for future display. The three semi-trailers and attendant equipment will remain at the Florida State Museum. One of them was earmarked for remodeling as an archaeological field station for the Museum's Department of Social Sciences.

The Traveling Exhibit was not an unqualified success as a Bicentennial project, but neither was it an unqualified failure. Public opinion generally concurred in rating the first exhibit on Florida history as excellent, the second trailer's displays on the present as good, and the third exhibit on present and future problems as mediocre if not disappointing. Had not inflation forced continuous revision of display designs, perhaps more effective exhibits could have been developed for the second and third trailers. Had some of the local Action '76 committees been more cooperative, presentations in certain areas might have been more successful. Nevertheless, although the exhibit was not quite as intriguing as the Commission had hoped to produce, and although it visited more urban centers and fewer small towns than originally intended, the exhibit did indeed carry the Bicentennial to the people of Florida, bringing them into direct contact with the Bicentennial celebration and enlightening them about the state's past, present, and potential.

The second Bicentennial exhibition was the Historic Florida Architecture Exhibit, sponsored jointly by the Commission and the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum of Palm Beach, and operated with the cooperation of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. Designed to illustrate notable examples of Florida's historic buildings and architectural style, the project originated in March 1972, when Charles B. Simmons, Executive Director of the Flagler Museum, wrote to Commissioner F. Blair Reeves to inquire if his University of Florida architecture students could put together such a display with financial backing from the Museum. Reeves took the idea to the Committee on Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics for consideration as a Bicentennial project. The committee, in turn, recommended that the full Commission adopt the plan, which it did at its May 1972 meeting.

Since at that early date the Commission still lacked statutory authority to make grants, it named the Flagler Museum as its agent for production of the exhibit. The Commission paid the Museum \$7,000, of which \$2,000 was for design and \$5,000 was to be matched by the Museum. The Commission also allocated \$500 to each of two consultants for preliminary concepts for the display. Thus, the original cost of the architectural exhibition was \$13,000, of which \$8,000 came from the Commission and \$5,000 from the Flagler Museum. This total was later increased by an allocation of \$482 to the Museum for necessary repairs and refurbishment of the display.

The two consultants asked to submit proposals were Chermayeff and Geismar Associates and Gart Urban and Associates, Inc., the same two engaged for the Traveling Exhibit. They made their presentations at the September 1972 Commission meeting, and Chermayeff's preliminary concept was approved.

Given the limited funds and the aim of producing an exhibit that could be transported in a van or station wagon and easily set up, the plans for the architecture exhibit were deliberately kept simple. Chermayeff's concept calling for a series of A-frame displays was incorporated into the final design produced by Bernard Voichysenk, Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Florida. The final display consisted of thirty-two 36" x 80" black and white photographic panels mounted on hollow-core doors hinged at the top in pairs. The photographs offered a cross-section of Florida architecture, depicting such typical and landmark constructions as the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Home in Cross Creek, a typical "cracker" farm house of the late nineteenth century; the Morocco Temple in Jacksonville, one of Henry John Klutho's flamboyant mixtures of Egyptian and Sullivanese decor; the Bat Tower on Sugar Loaf Key, built as a mosquito control device; the Castillo de San Marcos, Florida's well-known Spanish fortress; and the Gamble Mansion in Bradenton, site of an antebellum sugar plantation. An accompanying guidebook described the architectural significance of each of the buildings portrayed.

The Historic Florida Architecture Exhibit premiered, appropriately, at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach on March 23, 1973, in conjunction with that month's Commission meeting. It remained on display there until mid-April, when it began to tour the state under the auspices of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects, which agreed to undertake the project through the efforts of Commissioner Blair Reeves. Each of the Association's twelve regional chapters arranged for local displays of the exhibit through its members. They also contributed handling and shipping costs to move the exhibit to its next site, although, since only two people and a small truck were required, these costs were quite low. Usually the display was presented in such locations as enclosed shopping malls, bank lobbies, and art galleries. During its first year of operation, the Architects' Association handled display of the exhibit, but thereafter presentations were scheduled through the Commission's Tallahassee office, with local Action '76 steering committees assuming responsibility for its transportation from one locale to the next. Display of the Architecture Exhibit continued until November 30, 1976.

Upon expiration of the Commission the exhibit was donated to the University of Florida where it will become an educational aid for students in the School of Architecture.

Commemorative Items

In its effort to avoid over-commercialization of the Bicentennial observance, the Commission was reluctant to endorse a large number of commercial commemorative items, and preferred to reserve its own funds for more substantive and less risky programs than sponsorship and marketing of Bicentennial souvenirs. Therefore, the Commission itself produced no such items, and, applying stringent standards for quality and suitability, lent its official approval to only a few private ventures, although local Action '76 steering committees promoted many kinds of commemorative items as fund raising projects.

Initially, the Commission considered commemorative and commercial proposals as they arose, without any formal screening procedure, although the commissioners generally shared a common conception of what would appropriately dignify the Bicentennial and what would not. However, as the tempo of the celebration picked up, more proposals were presented, so the Commission decided to structure its evaluation procedures.

Accordingly, in May 1973, it created the Projects Committee, chaired by Harold Stayman and charged with screening commercial proposals as to their legitimacy, good taste, and tangible benefits to the Bicentennial program. From this modest beginning, the Projects Committee grew, in Stayman's words, to "awesome" proportions, handling the Florida Patriots Awards, numerous requests for endorsement from organizations sponsoring every kind of program, as well as evaluation of commercial propositions. However, its principal commemorative project was *Born of the Sun*.

Born of the Sun, Florida's official Bicentennial journal, originated in a proposal from Hal Herman, President of Worth International Communications Corporation of Palm Beach, although suggestions for some sort of commemorative book had been made by Proctor's Publications Committee earlier. Thus, the Commission was already amenable to such an undertaking when Herman took his idea to Harold Stayman who arranged a meeting with members of the Publications, Projects, and Business and Industry Committees in February 1974. Mr. Herman proposed that Worth International, a long established firm that had already done considerable work for the Department of Commerce, publish a quality commemorative journal with a 192-page, four-color format, for the Bicentennial Commission. When word spread that the Commission was considering such a venture, several other publishers presented their own proposals for commemorative books, but at the March 1974 session, the Commission both reconfirmed its interest in a commemorative journal and accepted Worth International's plan.

As then envisioned, the journal was to be a sort of Florida almanac, including guides to the state's government, history, and present economy as well as other useful information. There would be numerous illustrations in the style of the *American Heritage* series, but the volume's price would be kept low through sale of advertising space, as in a magazine.

This concept was assumed in the contract executed May 17, 1974, between the Commission and Florida Bicentennial Journal, Inc., a subsidiary of Worth International formed specifically for this project. By this contract, the publisher agreed to design, publish, and distribute, at his own cost, a Bicentennial commemorative journal, whose contents were to be developed in collaboration with the Commission, which retained complete editorial control and approval of the final product. In return for an appropriate message of endorsement and permission to use its name and logo in promotion and sale of the journal, all granted on an exclusive basis and not to be given to other similar publications, the Commission was to receive 10,000 free copies of the journal and five per cent of all gross advertising revenues. Later, when the scheme to sell advertising space was discarded, the contract was changed, by a modification signed in July 1975, to provide the Commission payment of five per cent of gross receipts from sales of the journal, rather than from advertising revenues. Still later, in October 1975, when design of the book had been further altered, making costs per copy much higher than initially anticipated, the Commission agreed to accept 4,000 free copies, instead of the 10,000 called for in the original contract.

Development of *Born of the Sun* was conducted in cooperation with the Commission's Publications and Projects Committees. Publications Chairman Proctor discussed general format with Joan Gill, the book's editor, and provided a list of potential authors for the various chapters. Projects Chairman Stayman oversaw the project and kept the Commission apprised of its progress.

Despite the Commission's collaboration, the final product was not quite what the commissioners had expected. What they had assumed would be an inexpensive almanac, not particularly fancy, but filled with useful information, emerged as an elegant coffee table piece of high quality and attractively illustrated. Within its pages, prominent journalists and scholars, all noted students of Floridiana, discussed the state's past, present, and future in articles on Florida during the Revolutionary era, the state's Indians and other ethnic groups, its participation in several wars, its ecology and natural environment, diverse aspects of its historical and current economy, and Florida's dreams for the future. A brief citizen's handbook, all that remained of the original almanac concept, described state government organization. Layout of *Born of the Sun* had a definite *American Heritage* flavor, with numerous full-color photographs and illustrations, as well as marginal mini-articles and commentaries, making it a distinctively useful and handsome volume.

The Commission exercised no responsibility for sale of the book. County committees had expressed interest in obtaining area marketing rights or wholesale prices on volume purchases in hopes of using the book as a fund raising device. The journal appeared in November 1975, but not until months later were satisfactory marketing arrangements made. Due to the lateness of the hour, therefore, few Action '76 committees ventured to purchase and resell *Born of the Sun*. The Commission eventually received \$11,257.05 in royalty earnings.



The Lincoln Mint coined the Governor's Scholarship Bicentennial medallions.

Two commemorative medallions, one sponsored by the Franklin Mint of Philadelphia and the other by the Lincoln Mint of Chicago, received endorsement from the Bicentennial Commission. Both medals were components of two national series produced by the respective mints and both earned royalties for the Commission, although neither program involved a funding commitment from that body.

The Official Florida Bicentennial Medal, produced by the Franklin Mint as part of its Fifty State Bicentennial Medal Collection, was the first medallion accepted for the Commission's sanction. Initially proposed to Chairman Pat Dodson in August 1971 as a medal design contest expected to generate at least one million dollars in royalties to be divided among state Bicentennial commissions, the program was carefully considered both by the staff and by the Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics Committee before it was formally approved by the full Commission in November 1971. In the spring of 1972, the Franklin Mint sponsored a contest in Florida to choose the design for the Bicentennial medal, awarding prizes totaling \$10,000 to the top four winners. Commissioners Tom Adams and Pat Dodson served with other prominent Floridians on the judging panel that selected the winning design in May 1972. The agreement between the Commission and the Mint called for the Commission to receive ten per cent royalty on all sales of the Franklin medal in Florida and on all sales of the Fifty State Series within the state. Furthermore, if the Commission adopted the winning design as the state's official Bicentennial medal, the Franklin Mint would pay it an additional royalty of ten per cent. Therefore, at its July 1972 session, the Executive Committee voted to designate the Franklin design as Florida's Official Bicentennial Medal. The medallion, depicting a Spanish conquistador looking toward the stars, went on sale in later 1972. It eventually earned the Commission royalties totalling \$154,458.72.

The Official Florida Governor's Scholarship Bicentennial Medallions, produced by the Lincoln Mint, resulted from a later proposal. In November 1972, the Lincoln Mint offered to produce three Bicentennial medals, one each in 1974, 1975, and 1976, whose designs were to be obtained through annual contests for state high school students. That initial offer was rejected because the Commission had already authorized the Franklin Mint to produce a Bicentennial medal. However, the Lincoln people revised their proposal by changing the name of their medals to the Official Florida Governor's Scholarship Bicentennial Medallions. On the recommendation of the Committee on Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics, the Commission's Executive Committee approved the revised Lincoln proposal in May 1973.

The agreement worked out between the Commission and the Mint called for the Mint to sponsor three annual design medallion contests for Florida high school students. The winners each year would receive scholarships of \$1,500, \$750, and \$250, respectively, for first, second, and third place. The Commission agreed to endorse the project and to contact the Florida Bankers Association and other groups for their cooperation in marketing the medallions. In return for its efforts, the Commission was to receive royalties on net sales of five per cent on the first \$250,000 in sales, ten per cent on sales between \$250,000 and \$500,000, fifteen per cent on sales between \$500,000 and \$750,000 and twenty per cent on sales over \$750,000.



The Wilton Brass Company produced a handsome armetale commemorative pewterware collection.

The contests were held in 1974 and 1975. Miss Karen Vnuk of Satellite Beach won the 1974 competition with her design of an early map, an Indian, a Spaniard, and a border of orange branches. The 1975 winner was Randy Neal Davis of Sarasota for his depiction of a windblown flag and palm tree with a rocket rising in the clouds behind a galleon. And a diagonally sectioned portrayal of four present-day Florida industries behind the state seal won the 1976 contest for Martin Hamilton of Hollywood.

The medallions were marketed at banks and savings and loan associations throughout the state under the auspices of the Florida Bankers Association in return for commissions on sales at a rate of one dollar for silver medals and fifty cents for bronze medals. In May 1974, the Commission proposed to the Association that it donate its royalties on medallion sales to help finance operation of the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. The bankers agreed to this plan, on condition that the Commission allocate its own medallion royalties for the same purpose. Sales of the Governor's medallions never reached the levels anticipated, but the Florida Bankers Association did earn \$23,000, which it turned over to the Commission. In its own right, the Commission received royalties of \$12,441.20 from the Lincoln Mint.

In addition to *Born of the Sun* and the two medallions, there were a few minor commercial commemorative ventures endorsed by the Commission. The first of these was a proposal made to the Commission in July 1972 by the Wilton Brass Company of Columbia, Pennsylvania. The matter was referred to the Buildings, Exhibits and Graphics Committee for consideration, so it was not until September of that year that the Executive Committee, on the recommendation of Reeves' committee, formally approved the program. The contract signed October 1, 1972, between Wilton and the Department of Commerce, on behalf of the Commission, called for production and sale of Armetale pewter mugs and two sizes of plates. In return for its endorsement the Commission was to receive fifteen per cent royalties on gross sales of all items, and retained the right to market the items on its own if it so desired. Royalties were to be paid quarterly until expiration of the contract at the close of 1976. The Commission itself did not sell the pewterware, although various Action '76 steering committees marketed it to raise funds for their projects. Total royalties received by the Commission amounted to \$579.22 over the life of the contract.

The second small-scale commercial venture was undertaken in January 1974, when the Commission approved a proposal from George A. Levy, Inc. of Tampa to produce Bicentennial commemorative jewelry and items such as pen sets and paper weights, all of which incorporated the state logo in their designs. On May 23, 1974 a contract was signed, binding the Levy company to pay the Commission royalties of fifteen per cent on the first 10,000 items sold, as well as incremental royalties of one per cent on each succeeding 10,000 pieces sold, up to 100,000 pieces. Sales beyond 100,000 pieces would earn the Commission a flat royalty of twenty-five per cent. The contract yielded only \$122.44 in revenue to the Commission, largely resulting from sales to county committees, which used the items for promotional and fund raising purposes.

In summary, from these five commercial commemorative endorsements, the Bicentennial Commission earned royalties totalling \$178,858.63 in cash, plus 4,000 copies of *Born of the Sun*, whose retail value would have been \$38,900 based on a sale price of \$9.95 each.

Communications

Concurrently with sponsoring numerous Bicentennial activities, the Commission took on various communications responsibilities. Among those duties were raising Floridians' consciousness of the approaching Bicentennial, providing information about projects and programs, encouraging participation in those programs, and stimulating Bicentennial tourism in the state. During its early years, the Commission concentrated on disseminating information aimed at generating enthusiasm for the Bicentennial and at publicizing projects requiring long range effort. Later, responding to the heightened excitement and activity of the Bicentennial, it diversified its program, publicizing individual projects and promoting travel in Florida during the celebration, as well as continuing to provide general information.

The Commission's first major production was a fourteen-minute, full color, 16mm, sound film, "A Declaration of Interdependence," aimed at soliciting community participation in the celebration and at publicizing the Commission's plans, with emphasis on Action '76. Initially discussed at the November 19, 1971, Commission meeting and approved at the next, the movie was ready for distribution by August 1972. It was made available, upon request to the Tallahassee office, to interested groups and was shown throughout the state by chambers of commerce, schools, historical societies, civic clubs, and television stations, as well as by some out-of-state groups. Although initially adequate, the film gradually became out-dated. Therefore, in July 1973, it was proposed that it be updated, using new material, in 35mm, which would allow distribution through movie theaters and thus expand the potential audience. This plan was referred to the newly created Films Committee, chaired by General W. E. Potter. The need for a better film was apparent, however, so it was decided to produce an entirely new documentary, featuring a well-known narrator. In May 1974, the Commission accepted the proposal of the Barton Film Company of Jacksonville to produce the new movie, and in June, through the efforts of Pat Dodson, actor Lief Erickson agreed to donate his services as narrator for the film and for a series of complementary public service announcements. The new movie, "Florida On My Mind," produced at a cost of \$28,000 including an original music score, described the Bicentennial as a giant birthday party for which Floridians were preparing various "gifts" in the form of Bicentennial projects commemorating their heritage and planning for their future. Released early in 1975, it was an instant success, collecting accolades from all sides, as well as an audiovisual award from the Southern Public Relations Federation. "Florida On My Mind" was widely distributed: fifteen 35mm prints were booked into movie theaters; twenty-five 16 mm prints were released nationally through the Department of Commerce Film Library; ten prints went permanently to the most active Action '76 committees; and twenty-five copies were released directly through the Commission office. In addition, twenty-five sets of complimentary thirty and sixty second public service announcements were sent to Florida television stations and approximately 250 records of thirty and sixty second announcements were mailed to radio stations. By the end of June 1976, an estimated 2,275,000 people had seen the documentary.



Governor Askew presents Lief Erickson with a resolution of gratitude for his narration of "Florida on My Mind"

The addition of an information specialist to the Commission staff in May 1972 permitted the development of a more formal communications program than had been possible earlier. August of that year marked the appearance of a preliminary newsletter. That first, rough, mimeographed edition eventually evolved into a polished four to eight page, monthly, red, white, and blue offset publication offering articles on the progress of Commission projects, administrative requirements, local activities of note, a calendar of events, and national programs of interest to Floridians. Entitled *Florida '76 today*, the newsletter began with an issue of approximately 1,000 copies, grew to 3,500 by May 1973, and to about 5,200 by the final edition of January 1977. It was mailed regularly to Commissioners, government officials, Action '76 committees, local Bicentennial organizations, and interested individuals upon request.

The Commission was also responsible for the publication of numerous brochures and booklets. Community Projects and Events for the Nation's Bicentennial, a comprehensive list of community projects in Florida based on BINET forms submitted by the county committees, was first published in January 1976 and updated in April and June. A brochure, *Florida Plans for the Nation's Bicentennial* detailing programs planned and underway in the state, appeared in May 1973, and was available upon request until exhausted. Ten thousand copies of an updated, sixteen-page booklet, *Florida Celebrates America*, were made available in January 1976. This pamphlet naturally concentrated more on programs already in existence than had the earlier flyer. In addition, Bicentennial activities were publicized in state government publications, such as the Department of Commerce's quarterly events brochure and annual festivals and events calendar. The Commission also provided regular news releases to the media and occasional special press packets, such as those provided to newspapers just before and after the 1976 Fourth of July weekend.

Although it was suggested, the Commission sponsored no popular Florida history series of its own. However, in July 1974, Bert Collier developed, within his weekly column for the *Gainesville Sun and Lakeland Ledger*, a Bicentennial series of articles on the more flamboyant characters and events in Florida's past. He informed Samuel Proctor, who took the story to the Commission, which agreed to instruct its staff to distribute Collier's articles to Florida newspapers desiring them. The idea was worthy and the Commission hoped to provide Florida history to a mass audience. Unfortunately, a failure to obtain professional verification of the articles' historical accuracy resulted in uneven quality. Nevertheless, the seventy-nine-installment series was carried by many newspapers, and the Commission received numerous request for reprints.

Along with its general communications program, the Commission undertook to provide publicity tailored to each of its individual projects. Getting Action '76 steering committees organized and operating smoothly held high priority. To this end, all general communications laid special emphasis on Action '76, and commissioners and staff members spoke to numerous local groups. Shortly before each area was due to be officially organized, a series of public service announcements, featuring Lieutenant Governor Tom Adams, urging citizens to get involved in their communities to create a better quality of life, were released to local radio and television stations. The Commission later put out a guidebook, occasionally updated with additional information, as well as periodic *76-O-Grams*, which were specifically tailored to the needs of the steering committees.

When a number of counties had been organized, the Local Participation and Resources Committee, headed by Charles E. Perry, sponsored a series of workshops for Action '76 chairmen. The first of these, held December 8, 1973, in North Miami, saw sixty people representing twenty-four counties attend presentations by Third Century USA and Interama on their special Bicentennial roles, a report on federal



Bicentennial legislation by Claude Pepper, and discussion of Action '76 duties, grant applications, and sale of commemorative items. The participants in the second meeting, held May 18, 1974, in Jacksonville, heard a detailed report by Ney C. Landrum of the Division of Recreation and Parks on grants available through that division and on the Bicentennial Trail, as well as further reports on fund raising projects and on the facsimile series. At the third workshop, September 28, 1974, in Tampa, Jerrell Shofner discussed the difficulties of producing county histories. Further presentations were made on grants and specific programs. The fourth meeting, February 1, 1975, in St. Augustine, provided a forum for the local chairmen to tell the Commission what they wanted. In April and May of 1975, five final, regional workshops were held to discuss grants, Bicentennial Community applications, publicity, local history, and project ideas.

To publicize the Florida Bicentennial Symposia, the Publications Committee compiled a mailing list of more than 1,000 names from the lists of the Gulf Coast History Conference, the Florida Historical Society, and the *William and Mary Quarterly*. Each of those people on the list received a letter from Samuel Proctor, announcing the annual symposium and outlining its program. Complete programs were mailed to selected individuals, as well as to scholarly journals for publication in their history news sections.

The Floridiana Facsimile editions were publicized both by a general brochure issued by the University Presses of Florida, and, since each volume appeared separately, by individual notices to various periodicals. A few review copies were sent to scholarly journals. And the Commission, usually through Action '76 chairmen, encouraged local newspapers to run book reviews of the volumes.

To herald the arrival of the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, the Commission provided scripts for television and radio public service announcements, but most of the responsibility for promoting the exhibit was left with the Action '76 steering committees. Consequently, the amount of publicity received by the Traveling Exhibit varied widely from place to place.

Outside of the Action '76 program, the Bicentennial Trail probably received the largest amount of publicity from the Commission. The guidebook, *A Heritage Revisited*, while an integral part of the Bicentennial Trail, was also useful in providing information about it. Individual brochures for the first twelve sites were produced and distributed. The University of Florida produced a series of radio spots highlighting individual sites. And the Bicentennial Trail was prominently mentioned in *Florida '76 Today*, in the brochure *Pathway to the Past*, and on the Department of Transportation's 1976 road map.

The Commission's Task Force on Travel and Promotion originated as a result of growing concern about Florida's ability to compete with the original thirteen states for tourist trade during the Bicentennial year. Some, led by Representative A. H. "Gus" Craig, wanted to sponsor a full-scale travel promotional campaign, and felt that a special task force, composed of experts and created under Commission auspices, should be established to direct that campaign. Accordingly, Craig was designated as task force chairman and other members were recruited in November 1974. By January, the task force had set its goals: stimulation of tourism; greater exposure of existing Bicentennial programs; initiation of advertising; publication of other useful materials; and cooperation with state agencies and other proper organizations in related programs. However, it was not until May 1975 that the Commission gave final approval for the task force's budget of \$157,000, which was funded out of \$200,000 in Commission monies that the legislature had originally appropriated to the Department of Commerce for films.

The task force's six-part promotional campaign included brochures, a film, travel posters, magazine ads, public service announcements for radio and television, and a travel booth, all reflecting the theme "Florida: First and Last Frontier." One million copies of the sixteen-page, full-color brochure *Pathway to the Past*, were printed and distributed primarily to travel agencies, AAA offices, Florida chambers of commerce, and Bicentennial Trail sites. Of 4,000 complimentary travel posters printed, 3,500 were sent to foreign and domestic travel agencies, American Automobile Association, and United States Travel Service offices abroad, and 500 were distributed through the Division of Tourism. Twenty-five prints of the fourteen-minute, history-oriented travel film, "Florida", were distributed to out-of-state television stations and travel groups during 1976, although, after the end of that year, this film was made available to schools and other groups in Florida through the Department of Commerce Film Library. Two formats for one-page magazine advertisements were placed in travel publications such as *Recommend-Florida*, *Travel Agent*, *Travel Weekly*, *Canadian Travel Journal*, and *Japan Travel Journal*, and in general circulation periodicals including *Southern Living*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *National Geographic*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Redbook*, *McCalls*, *Travel and Leisure*, and *Apartment Life*. A twelve-month series of sixty second radio and television public service announcements was aired during 1976 on approximately two-thirds of the television stations and one-half of the radio stations in Florida. In addition, the Division of Tourism's travel booth was refurbished with a Bicentennial theme. Enough money was left over from this item to finance Bicentennial information, including a synopsis of state history, historical illustrations, and a complete list of Bicentennial Trail sites, on the reverse side of the Department of Transportation's 1976 road map. Although originally budgeted at \$157,000 the entire program was completed for less than that amount, so the Commission awarded \$5,000 in surplus task force funds to the City of St. Augustine to support "Florida on Parade," a historical pageant held on July 3, 1976. The remaining task force funds were returned to the Bicentennial Commission Trust Fund.

Other Commission Projects

Bicentennial Wagon Train

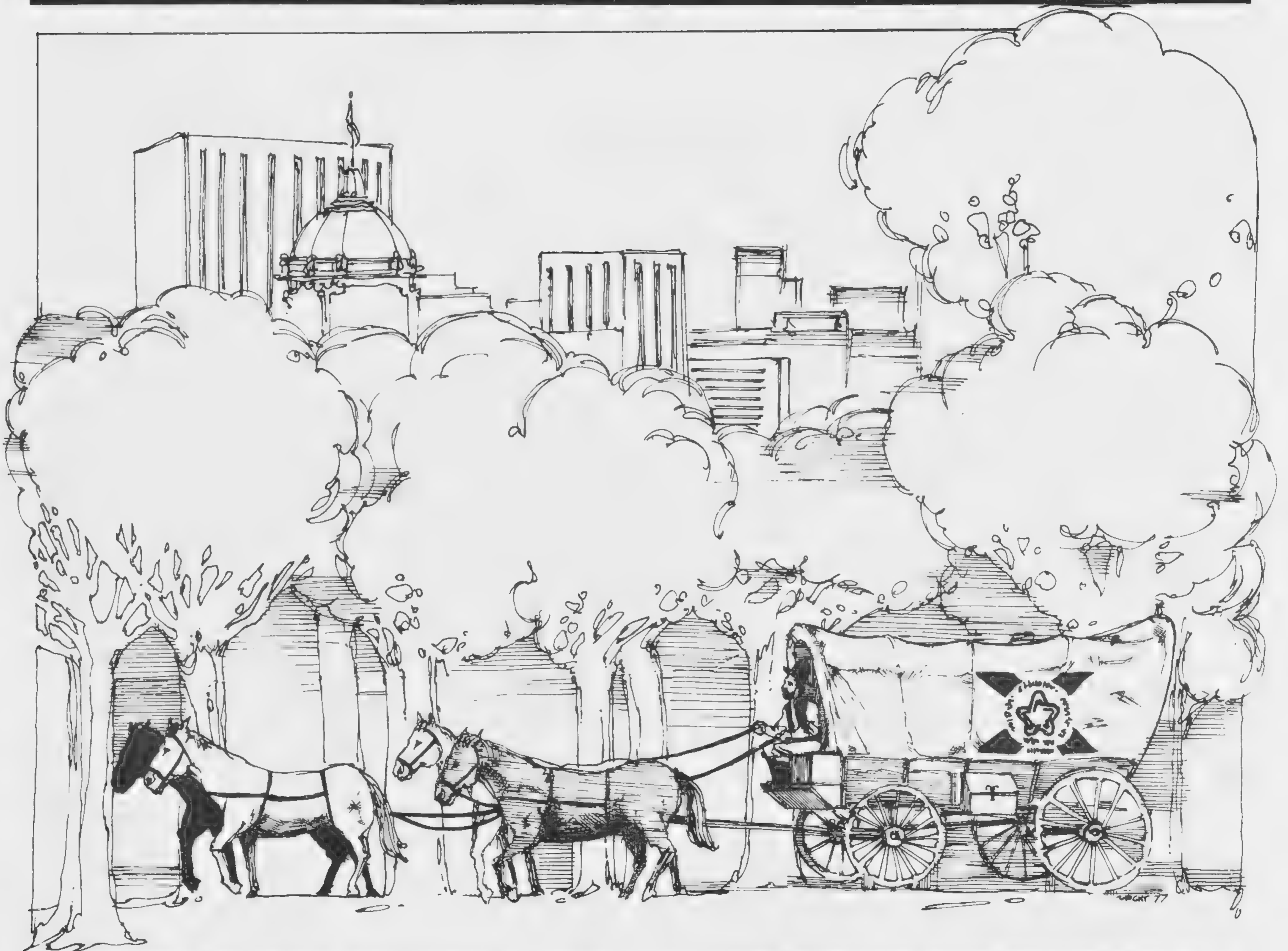
The Bicentennial Commission participated in the Pennsylvania Wagon Trail Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage, which consisted of a main wagon and several support wagons from each state, converged on Valley Forge, Pennsylvania -- the historic village outside Philadelphia -- on July 4, 1976.

Florida received an exact replica of a prairie schooner from the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Commission in August 1975. The wagon was initially exhibited at various events around the state before beginning its epic journey through Tennessee, Virginia, and Maryland on the way to Pennsylvania. The project gained more national attention than any other single Bicentennial project.

By the latter part of 1975 detailed plans had been completed for the trip. Mrs. Cathy Benoit of Panama City and Shirley Craycraft of Marianna were selected as riders to accompany the wagon from Florida to Pennsylvania. The wagon train's kickoff point was set for Polk County at the end of January 1976; from there it would move through the center of Florida to the Alabama border by March and then northeasterly toward its destination.

Amid considerable festivities, the Bicentennial Wagon Train left Polk County from the Louise Starling Ranch in January 1976 and wound its way through Florida toward Valley Forge. The wagon train traveled 544 miles through Florida in thirty-five days, utilizing backwoods trails, roads through national forests, and sometimes old wagon roads. Nightly encampments were held in various locales, attended by community dinners and events. Each evening a group of performers from Pennsylvania State University, assigned to the pilgrimage by the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Commission, presented a potpourri of American music. The project had its greatest impact in rural communities and areas, for many of which it provided their only chance to participate in a Bicentennial event. The reception was universally enthusiastic. Signatures for a Bicentennial petition were also obtained and ultimately deposited in Valley Forge.

The Bicentennial Wagon Trail arrived in Valley Forge during the weekend of July 3, 1976, and participated in the excitement that surrounded the arrival of its mates from other states. The wagon was donated to the State of Florida at the conclusion of the pilgrimage. It will remain in custody of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management.



Time Capsules

Since at least 1876, the Centennial year of the American Republic, time capsules have served as a popular commemorative device. The Bicentennial year was no different. At least twenty Florida communities are known to have "buried" capsules containing material, artifacts, and information chosen to depict contemporary conditions and life in their respective localities and in America during the Bicentennial era. Most are marked for opening during or shortly before the Tricentennial celebration.

Selecting items to be placed in the time capsules exercised the ingenuity and imagination of their creators. Orange County asked civic groups and municipalities to contribute one item each for inclusion in its monumental capsule, set in a cement vault next to Lake Eola. Records of the accomplishments and activities of Bicentennial committees were popular selections. Those opening the capsules will invariably find copies of local newspapers, Bicentennial memorabilia, photographs of local communities, coins, and, not infrequently, letters from officials to their counterparts in the year 2076.

The state Bicentennial Commission also filled and sealed a time capsule, a gift of the Reynolds Metals Company, which presented each state with a handsome, pressurized aluminum cylinder emblazoned with the Bicentennial logo. After the capsule was filled and sealed, Reynolds technicians injected into it a gas-chemical mixture to preserve the contents.

Ideas for items to be encapsulated were solicited from state residents. In response to suggestions, the Commission capsule contained items that both amuse and educate. Instead of including documents and graphics alone, the Commission staff decided to gather commonplace and nonvaluable items for not only are they more representative of contemporary society but invariably become scarce and hence more valuable in the future. An afro "hair pick," a polka-dot bikini, a map of Disney World, a credit card, and an inches ruler are among the capsule's contents, along with one piece of memorabilia from three past governors and Governor Reubin Askew. The Commission time capsule was placed in the R. A. Gray Building in Tallahassee, where it will remain on display, hopefully for a century.

Communities that reported time capsules to the state Commission and location of the capsules are:

Dade County		Palm Beach County	
Coral Gables	Police and Fire Station	Delray	City Hall Grounds
North Miami	Griffing Park		
Duval County		Pinellas County	
Deerwood	Village Mall Courtyard	St. Petersburg	City Hall Lobby
Jacksonville Beach	Jacksonville Beach Flag		
Escambia County		Polk County	
Pensacola	First Baptist Church	Auburndale	City Hall
Naval Air Station (NAS)	NAS Naval Aviation Museum	Lakeland	Civic Center Plaza
Lee County		Santa Rosa County	
Fort Myers	City Hall	Milton	County Courthouse
Leon County		Volusia County	
Tallahassee	Leon Park	Daytona Beach	City Hall
Levy County		DeBary	Southside
Chiefland		Walton County	
		DeFuniak Springs	County Courthouse Lawn

Florida Patriots

The Florida Patriot Awards honored seventy-six outstanding Floridians for their contributions toward improving the quality of life within the state. Developed from a suggestion made by Commissioner Samuel Proctor in 1973, the program was coordinated by Harold Stayman as one of the Projects Committee activities. It was through Stayman's efforts that the Florida Council of 100 agreed to underwrite the awards with a \$2,000 donation. In July 1974, the Commission allocated another \$2,000 for support of the program. A specially appointed review committee, itself composed of well-known Floridians, selected the Patriots from nominations solicited from the public. The first awards were presented, appropriately enough, at the Asolo State Theater's premier performance of "The Patriots" in Sarasota on October 24, 1975. The second presentation ceremony was held in conjunction with the American Wind Symphony concert in Tampa on May 7, 1976. Each of the seventy-six citizens honored received a Florida Patriot Award Certificate and a silver Florida Bicentennial medallion.

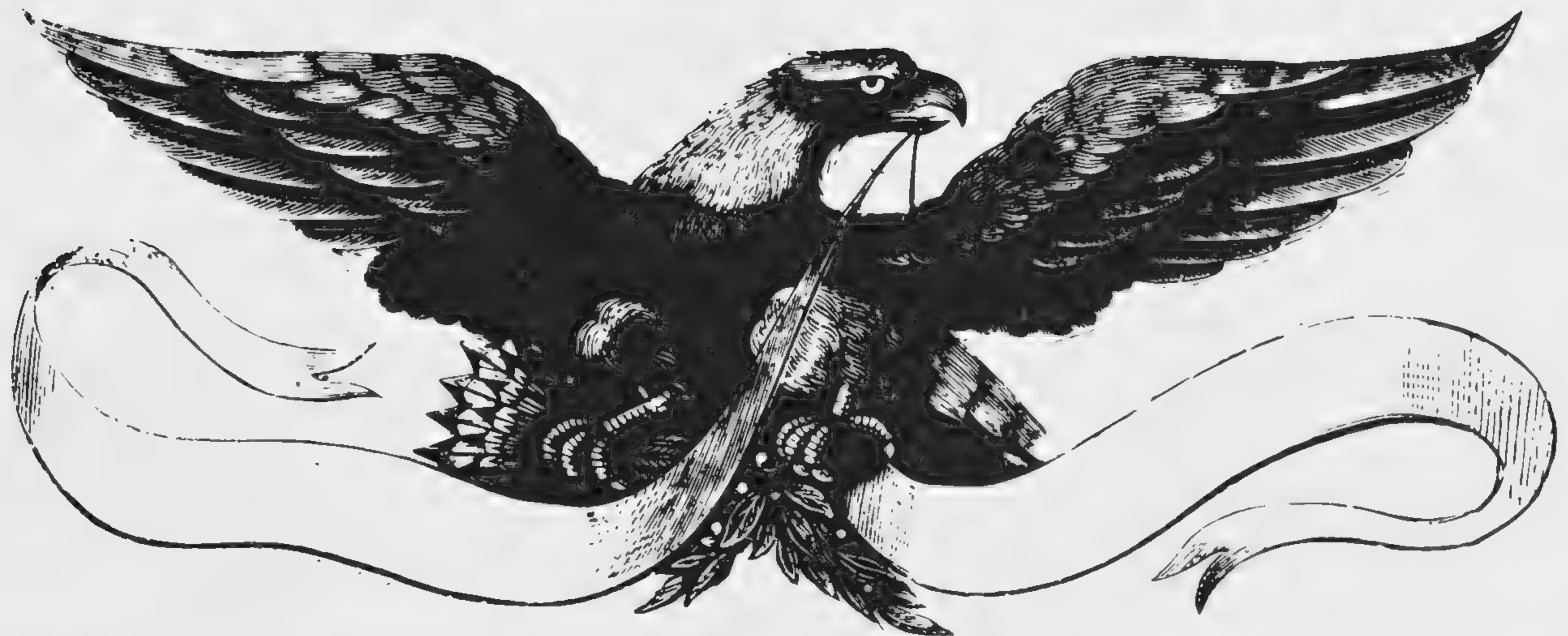
County Bicentennial Programs

Essentially, Florida's Bicentennial celebration was comprised of sixty-seven parts, since individual counties coordinated their own observances. In each county, an Action '76 Steering Committee spearheaded the effort. In a few instances, the state Commission recognized an already existing committee, such as Third Century USA in Dade County or the St. Augustine Committee for the National Bicentennial in St. Johns County. Usually, however, the committee was established through the combined efforts of local civic leaders and the Commission. The Commission, upon recommendation of its executive director and the Committee on Local Participation and Resources, appointed an Action '76 chairperson and worked with him or her to form the new county organization. Members of the steering committees represented all segments of the population.

The histories of county Bicentennial observances that follow reflect those activities officially reported to the Commission. Information was compiled primarily from telephone interviews with county chairmen and other committee members and from Commission files. In some cases, data was also obtained from county records received by the Commission for deposit in state archives and from final reports prepared by some of the county organizations. The 1970 census provided the population figures reported. Administrative grants list the amount of money available to Action '76 committees: many organizations needed only a fraction of those funds for administrative purposes. After the histories were prepared, county chairmen were asked to check them for accuracy. The Commission, however, retained final responsibility for their content.

The myriad benefits of the Bicentennial will continue long after July 4, 1976. City beautification, restoration of historic structures, establishment of ecological sanctuaries, staging of dramas, musicals, and other programs celebrating the national heritage, and research and publication of local histories are among the legacies of Bicentennial programs in Florida. In addition, the observance rendered citizens a sense of pride in their nation and a feeling of community, particularly among the hundreds of thousands who played an active role in local celebrations.

Florida's sixty-seven counties deserve much praise for their excellent Bicentennial programs that will long benefit the people of Florida.



Alachua County

Population:	104,764
Chairman:	Norman LaCoe (1973) R. A. "Tony" Kendzior (1974-77)
Administrator:	Kathy McDonald
Administrative Grant:	\$ 4,160
Project Grants:	\$28,000

Set in the central part of northern Florida and claiming in 1970 a population of slightly more than 104,000, Alachua County provides the locale for the campus of the University of Florida. Both the county and the university hosted Bicentennial committees that contributed to the organization of commemorative activities for area residents.

The Action '76 Committee was formed in January 1973 with Norman LaCoe as its first chairman. LaCoe served for one year before relinquishing the chairmanship to Tony Kendzior, who subsequently served to the committee's conclusion in April 1977.

In the first year of Action '76's existence, LaCoe and a 25-member steering committee explored areas and programs in which the Bicentennial effort could be directed for community improvement. Among ideas considered were sponsoring a local chapter to fight drug abuse and restoration of a Gainesville historic landmark, the Hotel Thomas. In its first year the Bicentennial organization made extensive use of the media to publicize its purpose and goals. Kendzior, who changed Action '76's name to the "Alachua County Bicentennial Steering Committee," reconstructed the committee, delegating vice chairmen with responsibility for specific areas of project achievement. The committee made a successful application for a grant of \$15,000 from the Florida Bicentennial Commission for a study of the feasibility of restoring the Hotel Thomas. That initial project eventually yielded undreamed of benefits, for in 1976 the federal government released 1.5 million dollars to perform the actual restoration. Without a completed feasibility study, the federal grant would not have been obtained.

Additional grants to the Steering Committee from the state Commission aided development of the Morningside Nature Center and conversion of an early one-room school-house into a mini-museum of nineteenth century educational facilities. Both the nature center and museum are available for instructional use by the county school system.

The towns and cities of Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, Micanopy, and Waldo achieved Bicentennial Community status from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, as did the county itself for its program. The University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College received recognition as Bicentennial Campuses.

The Steering Committee cooperated with the University of Florida in promoting several activities, including hosting the Florida Bicentennial Relays and statewide Special Olympics, which gave handicapped persons a chance to participate in competitive athletics. The latter program received a grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission. The University of Florida Bicentennial Committee, headed by Commission member Blair Reeves, sponsored a very broad range of cultural and athletic activities and community and campus improvement projects.

More than 700 volunteers joined in planning and preparing for the county's July 4, 1976, weekend of activities, which were centered in Gainesville and attended by some 10,000 persons. A parade, exhibits, dances, a concert, fair, and religious services characterized the events. It served as a fitting climax to a successful Bicentennial program that left an indelible mark on Alachua County.

Baker County

Population:	9,242
Chairman:	Gary K. Fraser (1974-75) Earl L. Parish (1975-77)
Secretary:	Bonnie Alvarez
Treasurer	Wilma Morris
Executive Director:	Brenda Rhoden
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grants:	\$1,500

Baker County, named for Confederate States Senator James M. Baker, began its participation in the Bicentennial in the summer of 1974 with the appointment of Gary Fraser as Action '76 Steering Committee chairman.

Although specific plans and projects were not immediately formulated, the committee convened periodically and county enthusiasm developed. The first chairman resigned for personal reasons and was replaced by Earl Parish in early 1975.

Under its new leadership, the Baker County Action '76 Committee quickly outlined its objectives and projects. The Bicentennial program included restoration of the original county courthouse, publication of a history of the county, beautification of major streets in MacClenny, the county seat, conversion of the oldest house in the county into an interpretive museum, and several parades and festivals for the years 1975 and 1976.

Enthusiasm increased in mid-1975 after Baker County received designation as an official Florida Bicentennial Community. By this time there were thirty Steering Committee members.

In early 1976, the Florida Bicentennial Wagon Train rolled into the area. Baker County's enthusiasm was apparently infectious, for the turnout to meet the Wagon Train was very large. By July 4, 1976, the Committee's active membership had increased from thirty to fifty persons.

The July 4 festivities were highly successful, as approximately 5,000 people took part in the commemorative program, a patriotic day that included a lengthy parade and a large community dinner highlighted by the presence of Congressman Don Fuqua.



The American Wind Symphony made one of its Florida appearances in Bay County.

Bay County

Population:	75,283
Chairman:	J. Robert Hughes (1973-1977)
Vice Chairman:	Lyn Southall
Secretary:	Diana Michaels
Treasurer:	Nancy Boyd
Administrative Grant:	\$ 3,375
Project Grants:	\$27,750

The Bay County Action '76 Committee was organized in August 1973 and J. Robert Hughes, a Panama City attorney, named chairman. Mr. Hughes held the distinction of remaining as chairman of the committee throughout the Bicentennial observance.

Bay County Action '76 initially undertook an ambitious publicity campaign featuring radio and television announcements to encourage local participation in its projects. The program included an effort to secure designation of historical places in the county as national historic sites. The committee applied for and received funds from the Florida Bicentennial Commission to establish a heritage library, which included oral histories of Bay County and a number of old books relating to local history. The committee participated in the creation of a pioneer farm complex at the Junior Museum that featured a century-old log cabin with authentic furnishings. The pioneer complex presents a tableau of pioneer activities such as cane grinding, blacksmith demonstrations, candle making, and other crafts common to nineteenth century America. Action '76 planned a Bay County Heritage Trail that would contain sites of historical interest to visitors and local residents. Each site would be marked by metal signs and eventually incorporated into a Heritage Trail map for dissemination throughout the community.

Sponsorship of a local performance of the American Wind Symphony was another project of the Action '76 Committee. It also sponsored, in conjunction with Gulf Coast Community College, a week-long seminar on government that featured prominent historians and legislators. In May of the Bicentennial year, Bay County staged an "Old Town Day" festival. July 4 was celebrated throughout the county with various communities hosting parades, speakers, picnics, and fireworks. July was also marked by a visit of the American Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. Bay County's projects will prove of historical benefit to local residents well into America's third century.

Bradford County

Population:	14,625
Chairman	Mrs. C. A. Knight (1974) Judge Elzie S. Sanders (1974-77)
Vice Chairman:	Eugene L. Matthews
Secretary:	Ann Hamilton
Treasurer:	Kathryn L. Struthe
Administrative Grant	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$7,500

The Bradford County Action '76 Committee was organized with a thirty-eight-member steering committee in April 1974. Judge Elzie S. Sanders was named chairman of the committee in July. At an early date the committee selected the restoration of the courthouse as its major project. The building was recognized by the State Division of Archives, History and Records Management as one of eleven old courthouses remaining in the state whose unique architectural style made its preservation a worthy community objective. To complete the project the Action '76 Committee received a \$7,500 grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission. Work proceeded on the reconstruction from 1975 through the Bicentennial year until February 1977.

The Bradford County fairgrounds was the site of a two-day fair over the July 4, 1976 weekend. On Independence Day, the Action '76 Committee planted a time capsule in front of the courthouse in Starke. A Veteran's Day observance in November 1976 ended activities of the Bradford County Action '76 Committee.

Brevard County

Population:	230,006
Chairman:	William F. "Bud" Housner (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Agatha Doerer
Secretary:	Leon Wichmann
Treasurer:	Floyd Lemmon
Administrative Grant:	\$ 8,050
Project Grants:	\$44,100

Much of Brevard County's Bicentennial program, which was replete with festivals and varied projects, emphasized the area's unique role in America's space program, the nation's new frontier. Inspirational leadership and the involvement of numerous communities provided the county with a truly progressive and memorable program of activities.

Interest in the celebration surfaced as early as 1971. Action '76 was not organized, however, until May 1973, with W. F. "Bud" Housner named chairman.

In the summer of 1973, Housner and a twenty-member steering committee, under the official name of the Brevard County Bicentennial Committee, began making appeals to civic groups to coordinate their programs with the official Bicentennial committee, and began unveiling numerous projects, including the planned launching of a Freedom Beacon from Cape Kennedy on July 4, 1976, designed to convey a Bicentennial message to the world.

In September 1973, Brevard County's Bicentennial Committee applied for Bicentennial Community status, listing as projects the creation of a pioneer village, the July 1976 Freedom Beacon, a mass induction service featuring the combined four services bands, sponsorship of the Brevard County Fair, a moonwalk festival, power boat races, a Junior Miss Contest, a countywide Fourth of July picnic, the establishment of an annual pageant, a program to send thirty-five Boy Scouts to South America, plans to adopt a sister city in Russia, "Walk for Mankind," an annual benefit staged by the Brevard County Jaycees, a program for youth education on the evils of drugs and alcohol, showing of films for the aged, construction of a civic center in Cocoa Beach, establishment of a halfway house, building of bikeways, and construction of a museum.

By the fall of 1973 other communities had organized Bicentennial programs. For example, Cocoa Beach's fledgling Bicentennial committee planned to beautify Highway A1A with red, white, and blue trees.

Further progress developed in 1974. The county unveiled plans for a twenty-one acre Bicentennial "Pioneer Village," for which the Bicentennial Committee received almost \$50,000 from the Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks. In June, Melbourne staged a three-week Honor America Festival, while the Brevard County Board of Education sponsored a teacher summer workshop on the American Revolution Bicentennial in an effort to discuss ways to celebrate the Bicentennial in the county's public schools. In July, Brevard County's Bicentennial Committee hosted a

lavish Bicentennial meeting in Cocoa Beach, which featured a Moonwalk Bicentennial banquet. In the fall of 1974, the Ray Allen Elementary School in Melbourne planned to show American history productions over closed circuit television. At the same time, in Titusville, plans went forward to create a Veteran's Memorial. In November, Melbourne applied for Bicentennial Community status.

Housner and the Brevard County Bicentennial Committee were extremely busy in 1975. The chairman contacted several congressmen for funds for the Freedom Beacon project, began plans to conduct a Bicentennial symposium at the International Newspaper Promoters Association Convention, and prepared for the Second Annual Brevard County Patriot's Day.

In June 1975, Titusville's Chamber of Commerce constructed a "Bicentennial Headquarters" sign on A1A, while the Elks Club of Cocoa Beach erected twenty-five American flags along median strips. In addition, the City of Coco applied for a grant for a fine arts theater. By the middle of 1975, Melbourne had developed an excellent Bicentennial program. Its one hundred-member steering committee planned an ambitious festival beginning on July 4, 1975, featuring a parade and ceremonies, complemented by numerous projects in the ensuing year. Projects included booklets on the history of South Brevard, a history of the south Brevard schools, planting 13,000 "Bicentennial" trees, a citywide cleanup, Bicentennial exploration of the flora and fauna in Melbourne, interviews with elderly residents, a country and western day, a Christmas parade, a veteran's parade, and a Bicentennial tennis tournament.

In the meantime, the county's educational institutions were becoming more deeply involved in Bicentennial programs. In May 1975, the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne applied for Bicentennial Campus status. Its twenty-five-member steering committee listed many Bicentennial projects. Included were dramas, Washington's Birthday ceremonies, historical spots on radio, and such projects under consideration as a library display, films, creation of a space university, commemoration and renovation of the interior of Brevard's oldest schoolhouse, and a campus escorted tour of the botanical gardens. Brevard Community College's application for Bicentennial Campus status listed such events as "You Are There", a column relating an historical event in each issue of the student newspaper, a five-film series depicting various eras of American history, and "Bicentennial Briefs" on the front page of each issue of the college paper.

As the Bicentennial year unfolded, numerous projects and festivals reached fruition. A major fete included the Seventh Annual Moonwalk Banquet and Bicentennial Awards Ceremony. Other programs of note included commemorative medallion displays, Melbourne's "Sketch Book," completion of the Bicentennial Cookbook, Technology Day, and reproduction and distribution of old newspapers to schools. In addition, several historical projects were completed. They included a Bicentennial memorial gazebo, sponsored by the Indialantic-by-the-Sea Bicentennial Committee, a Brevard County Bicentennial monument sponsored by the Brevard County Bicentennial Committee, a Bicentennial memorial mini-park, sponsored by the North Brevard Bicentennial Committee, a Brevard County museum, sponsored by Friends of the Museum, historical pamphlets and a commemorative book, sponsored by the Melbourne Bicentennial Committee, and a pioneer village sponsored by the Brevard County Bicentennial Committee.

The Independence Day celebration featured "Third Century America," a Bicentennial exhibition at Cape Canaveral that ran from May 30 through September 6. A countywide bell-ringing ceremony on July 4 was sponsored by the Bicentennial Committee along with activities and ceremonies at Kiwanis Island and greetings to the world via the Oscar Satellite.

Brevard County's Bicentennial program was comprehensive and extensive and included numerous communities, festivals, and projects of lasting historical value. A total of 427 projects were implemented. Under Bud Housner's leadership, the Bicentennial Committee remained active and ambitious throughout the celebration.

Broward County

Population:	620,100
Chairman:	Fred R. Millsaps (1973-74) Sheriff Edward J. Stack (1974-77)
Vice Chairman:	James L. Leavitt
Secretary/Treasurer/ Executive Director:	Katharine H. Nilsson
Administrative Grant:	\$18,600
Project Grants:	\$51,250

As the second most populous county in Florida, Broward County presented an organizational challenge of considerable scope. Originally included with Dade County in Third Century USA, Broward County formed its own Action '76 Committee in June 1974 and began to function independently under the leadership of Sheriff Edward J. Stack. In October 1974, Sheriff Stack named Katharine Nilsson as executive director and appointed subcommittee chairmen.

After initial efforts to coordinate county activities on an area basis, the committee decided to encourage municipalities to form individual committees. In addition to simplifying organization, that approach promoted closer individual identification with committees and led to a wider variety of Bicentennial projects.

Members of the county committee visited schools, community, and civic organizations, senior citizens groups, service clubs, and municipal committees throughout the county to promote participation in Bicentennial committees and projects. Included in most presentations was a showing of the film "Florida on My Mind," which was seen by an estimated 215,000 county residents. As a reminder of the success achieved by the committee, eighteen communities, Broward Community College, and Broward County itself won official recognition by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration as Bicentennial Communities.

Various county entities formed Bicentennial committees, including the Broward County School Board, the Broward County Division of Libraries, and the Port Everglades Authority. In both 1975 and 1976 the Broward County Historical Commission employed a Bicentennial theme in presenting its annual historical exposition, "Pioneer Days." It also published a Broward County history and established a mini-museum in the Broward County Courthouse. The Visual Arts Subcommittee of Action '76 assembled a Broward County Bicentennial traveling art exhibit based on the theme "The Essence of Broward" to display the work of resident artists.

The Action '76 Committee coordinated the submission of forty grant applications to the state Commission, which funded nine of them, totalling \$51,250. The largest of the grant projects, Broward Community College's "Town Meeting," promoted discussion of community problems and solutions among residents of twenty different municipalities.

In June 1975, a group of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County citizens organized "The Broward Minutemen" to direct and finance special Bicentennial events and projects, including the county's Fourth of July celebration. To finance its activities the group solicited private contributions and sold "Salute to America" buttons, setting as its goal \$50,000. More than 200,000 persons witnessed the July 4 weekend of events that were staged along Fort Lauderdale Beach.

Municipal committees and other Bicentennial committees sponsored many projects in addition to those funded by the state Commission. Coral Springs, North Lauderdale, Coconut Creek, and Broward County developed or improved parks as Bicentennial projects. The Broward County Historical Commission installed a touch retrieval pictorial archives file. Margate erected a flagpole as a memorial to the Bicentennial. The Fort Lauderdale Bicentennial Committee conducted an imaginative program that included support for local arts and an historical inventory of the area. A county history, placement of historical markers, and planting of trees were additional countywide activities. The Action '76 Committee continued to function through 1976 and closed its activities in February 1977 with submission of its final report to the state Commission.



"Star Spangled Broward" was a Bicentennial town meeting on wheels

Calhoun County

Population:	7,624
Chairman:	George Atkins (1974-77)
Executive Director:	Roberta Grantham
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

The Calhoun County Action '76 Steering Committee was organized in April 1974 following a meeting between a Florida Bicentennial Commission representative and Mr. George Atkins of Blountstown. Atkins agreed to accept chairmanship of the committee.

In 1975, Ms. Roberta Grantham was appointed executive director of the committee and began shaping an energetic program of activities. During that year, Action '76 joined Blountstown High School in developing a Bicentennial theme for its homecoming and planned a pioneer day featuring an historical enactment of the county's history. Another major event was the unveiling of a portrait of Fuller Warren, a county native son who served as Florida's governor from 1949 to 1953. The portrait was hung in the county courthouse in Blountstown. The committee also placed a marker on Warren's grave.

By the beginning of the Bicentennial year, the Steering Committee, with Ms. Grantham assuming the major burden of responsibility, had grown to include twenty members. It began preparations for the spring appearance of the Florida Bicentennial Wagon Train. Representatives of twenty-five to thirty organizations in the county participated in that event. The Wagon Train's appearance drew between 7,500 and 8,000 persons, and was surely the best attended Bicentennial event in Calhoun County. The Bicentennial program culminated with a July 4 celebration, featuring a beardgrowing contest, games, and a picnic.

Despite a lack of active countywide support, Calhoun County's Action '76 offered citizens a number of meaningful Bicentennial activities.

Charlotte County

Population:	27,559
Chairman:	Harry Nohrr (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Mike Best
Secretary:	Jules Taylor
Treasurer:	Basil Banks
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grant:	\$ 300

Charlotte County, located on the southern Gulf Coast, conducted an extensive program reaching out to many persons and parts of the county. A large number of projects contributed to the success of the local observance.

Charlotte County's Action'76 began operations in the fall of 1973. Harry Nohrr became chairman of the fledgling program and quickly began building a steering committee, which by February numbered thirty-seven. By mid-1974 the committee had increased to fifty-three and acquired an executive director, George Lane, Jr. In the middle of 1975, Michael D. Best replaced Lane as executive director, serving in this post until the committee went out of existence.

The projects program for Charlotte County was ambitious. The Steering Committee divided itself into numerous areas of authority corresponding to projects. The projects included historical markers, restoration and preservation of old buildings, establishment of a self-guided tour of historical points in Charlotte County, a historical museum, additional parks and recreational areas, a roadside litter barrel program, tree planting, community beautification, and a county historical program for the schools.

In August 1974, Action'76 adopted the Bennington flag as the official symbol of countywide participation in the Bicentennial celebration. At the same time, Action '76 received the support of the county commission for obtaining recognition of Port Charlotte's cultural center as a "landmark" Bicentennial project.

In the fall of 1974, the executive director of Charlotte County's Bicentennial program began expanding his own role. Frequent requests for materials were sent to the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. The Steering Committee also enlarged its projects list to include suggestions ranging from a Christmas parade to a county arts and crafts festival.

Throughout 1975, the committee members of Action '76 worked on numerous projects and activities whose deadlines for completion were approaching rapidly. During the Bicentennial year itself, many programs and projects were successfully completed, and a large July 4 celebration provided entertainment as well as an occasion for reflection. Thousands of celebrants, many of whom were dressed in red, white, and blue, participated in such traditional activities as a barbeque, parade, fireworks, games, and burial of a time capsule.

Charlotte County’s Action ’76 offered citizens a splendid Bicentennial program that served to raise spirits and made numerous contributions to the county, leaving for the third century a mark of positive achievement.

Citrus County

Population:	19,196
Chairman:	Paul L. Gibson (1974-77)
Secretary:	Jean Grant
Treasurer:	Robert N. England
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$4,750

Broad community involvement characterized the Citrus County Bicentennial effort, which was chaired by Paul Gibson, an Inverness businessman. Gibson was the first and only chairman of the Citrus Action ’76 group, which was organized under the auspices of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce in March 1974, following a meeting with a Florida Bicentennial Commission representative. Among the first proposals taken under study by the Steering Committee was restoration and development of Fort Cooper as a state historic site and outdoor recreation complex. The property is owned by the State of Florida.

Adjunct Bicentennial committees were established in Floral City, Inverness and Crystal River. A Bicentennial recreational park was planned by the Inverness group. In Crystal River, Bicentennial workers looked toward constructing a youth baseball complex. The Crystal River committee received a \$2,500 Florida Bicentennial Commission grant for that project.

Citrus County’s Action ’76 Committee published a pamphlet in April 1975 outlining its objectives and applied for national recognition as a Bicentennial Community. Efforts cited by the twenty-member committee included a youth sports complex, a county history (which ultimately received state Commission grant support), a flagpole monument in Floral City, a costume ball in Inverness, a drama center in Citrus Springs, and a lavish July 4 celebration. Many civic groups throughout the county contributed to plans for the Independence Day events.

Thousands witnessed July 4 parades in Inverness and Beverly Hills, as well as the traditional kinds of activities held on that day. Crystal River’s festivities included ball games on the four new fields in its Bicentennial park. The Action ’76 Committee unveiled a large replica of the Declaration of Independence that was signed by people attending the events.

Many additional projects were completed by the county Bicentennial organization, which, under Gibson’s energetic and conscientious leadership, developed a program that met every criteria of excellence set by the state and national commissions.

Clay County

Population:	32,059
Chairman:	Frank W. Brown, Jr. (1973-74) Thomas D. Ryan, Jr. (1974-77)
Administrative Assistant:	Pat DeCrosta
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	\$5,500

In the Bicentennial era, which began in 1971, rapid population growth characterized the tempo of life in Clay County, situated on the west bank of the St. Johns River, southwest of Jacksonville. The Action ’76 Committee was formed in September 1973. By December the first chairman, Frank Brown, had organized a steering committee of fifteen persons. Its plan embraced an essay contest, art and poster contest, a waterfront park, forest preservation, and a bike trail. The list grew in succeeding years as additional groups joined in the observance. The Orange Park Women’s Club produced a history of Clay County churches; the United Methodist Church of Middleburg sponsored a cemetery restoration and improvement program; and several public schools undertook to produce a Bicentennial calendar. Green Cove Springs, Orange Park, Keystone Heights, Penney Farms and Middleburg organized Bicentennial committees.

Tom Ryan, Jr. replaced Brown as chairman in June 1974. Application for grant assistance from the Florida Bicentennial Commission for a history museum in Green Cove Springs and a county history soon followed. The Commission funded both projects. Dr. Fred Blakey, associate professor of history at the University of Florida, wrote the chronicle of Clay County, *Parade of Memories*, which in every respect proved to be an excellent piece of local history. The committee’s application to the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration for Bicentennial Community status listed an agri-center, a countywide festival, construction of the historical museum, and other projects. The designation of Clay County as an official

Bicentennial Community was accorded in July 1976. In addition to administrative and project grants from the Florida Bicentennial Commission, the committee received generous financial support from the Board of County Commissioners and from the Johns Manville Corporation.

Independence Day 1976 celebrations were held in communities throughout the county. Residents were able to participate in activities of every kind in the wrapup of a successful Bicentennial program.

Collier County

Population:	38,040
Chairman:	Admiral F. Gordon Selby (1974-75)
Co-Chairmen:	J. Duane Julian A. D. Schulze Marion P. Wightman
Vice Chairman:	Thomas Archer
Secretary:	Jane Grunwell
Treasurer:	Margaret T. Scott
Executive Director:	Thomas F. Kehoe
Administrative Grant:	\$ 2,500
Project Grants:	\$16,650

Collier County enjoyed an enthusiastic Bicentennial program that actively involved many communities, institutions, and civic groups. The Action '76 program contributed projects of lasting historical and recreational value to the area.

Organization of the county's Action '76 Committee was accomplished in May 1974 following joint efforts by the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the Collier County Historical Commission. Retired Admiral F. Gordon Selby and Thomas Kehoe became chairman and executive director, respectively, of the fledgling committee. They planned to organize the steering committee on a geographical and functional basis.

Soon after its inception, Action '76 applied for countywide Bicentennial Community status, and with assistance from the Historical Commission embarked on organizing a county historical museum. In the fall of 1974, Action '76 and its sixteen-member steering committee joined the Junior Women's Club's community improvement project at the Big Cypress Nature Center. To raise money for its projects and operations, Action '76 planned several fund raising projects, including the sale of Bicentennial memorabilia.

In that same season Marco Island, Immokalee, Golden Gate, and the Daughters of the American Revolution organized their own Bicentennial programs, known as task forces, in coordination with Action '76. Each task force quickly involved itself in the observance. For example, Marco Island's task force opened its Bicentennial celebration with a "blessing of the colors" ceremony, announced plans to restore the old Marco Island Cemetery, and planned to place a flag in every home and business on the island by July 4, 1975. Immokalee's task force received \$1,350 from the Bicentennial Commission of Florida to air-condition its community center. It also embarked on a community cleanup program.

The Bicentennial pace quickened in 1975 -- a vitally important year for Action '76 -- with sponsorship of an old-fashioned patriots community songfest; preparation of a record, "Collier Sings," for fund raising purposes; and production of an ambitious program, "Shot Heard Around the World," for "patriots" day, a commemoration of the battles of Lexington and Concord. The latter celebration featured a parade comprised of representatives of numerous groups in the area. Action '76, in 1975, also sent two Boy Scouts to Concord, Massachusetts, placed a twelve-page supplement heralding its program in the *Naples Daily*, began issuing bi-weekly newsletters to steering committee members, engaged in a large Bicentennial church service, and celebrated July 4, 1975 with a three-day festival. Amid the frenetic activity, Ben Anderson, an active member of the steering committee, became chairman in May, following Admiral Selby's resignation.

The latter part of 1975 was marked by a \$10,000 grant from the Bicentennial Commission to the Historical Commission of Collier County for development of its county museum and archives project.

Heralding the Bicentennial year was the appearance in the winter of the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit in Naples and Immokalee and of the Armed Forces Exhibit in Naples. Other important events in 1976 included burial of a time capsule and an \$800 Commission grant for the Big Cypress Nature Center in Naples. Events and festivals of a lesser nature occurred throughout the Bicentennial year. For example, the Big Cypress Nature Center held a Tom Sawyer Day, featuring a Bicentennial theme. Naples' music club presented a "Parade of American Music" concert and the City of Everglades sponsored a seafood festival with a Bicentennial theme.

The county's 1976 Independence Day celebration included a street dance, cookout, parade, county fair day, costume ball, park picnic, band concerts, religious service, sand castle contest, community sing, numerous athletic events, and a fireworks display sponsored by the Jaycees. The activities took place in Naples. Games, fireworks, and a barbeque were held in Immokalee on July 4. In addition, the Religious

Services Committee of the Collier County Action '76 Committee sponsored an ecumenical religious service featuring presentation of the flags of local clubs, organizations, and service groups.

Collier County's outstanding Bicentennial program featured numerous festivals and resulted in significant historical contributions. Leadership, participation and enthusiasm made the county's effort one of the premier observances in the state.

Columbia County

Population:	25,250
Chairwoman:	Virginia H. Bishop (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Don Caldwell
Secretary:	Dorothea Burgess
Treasurer:	Jacquelyn Moore
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grant:	\$2,500

Under the direction of a Lake City resident, Virginia Bishop, Columbia County's Action '76 Committee completed numerous historical and civic projects. Mrs. Bishop served as head of the committee during the entire Bicentennial period. In its initial meeting in the fall of 1973, Action '76 decided to focus its efforts on three major projects: a new county library-museum, county beautification, and a history of the southern part of Columbia County. In 1974 the list of projects was expanded. Plans were made to provide bicycle trails between public schools and Lake City Community College. An effort was undertaken to find a historian to write a history of the entire county. The committee also projected the establishment of a Bicentennial park and sponsorship of an essay contest in schools entitled "What the American Revolution Means to Me." It set forth a program to honor American artists, to assist in purchasing "Spirit of '72" band uniforms for the county high school, and to restore and dedicate the Memorial Cemetery. A further noteworthy event in 1974 was designation of Columbia County as a Bicentennial Community. The celebration at which the Bicentennial flag was presented featured Congressman Don Fuqua as speaker.

Festivals highlighting the Bicentennial program in 1975 included an appearance by the United States Army Band in May, a Bicentennial county fair exhibit in October, and a Bicentennial trail ride that same month. Festivals of that kind continued into the Bicentennial year of 1976. In January an award winning musical drama, "1776", was staged by a local cast. In February the county hosted the Florida Bicentennial Wagon Train on its way to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit made a one-week appearance in Lake City in April.

Olustee Park served as the location for the celebration of America's two-hundredth birthday, which in Columbia County began on July 2 and lasted through July 4. The event was sponsored by the Lake City Jaycees and included music, dancing, athletics, speeches, a sidewalk art show, parade, and fireworks. In late November the United States Armed Forces Caravan made an appearance in Lake City. Before closing its activities the Action '76 Committee designated the balance of monies in its account for purchase of more than one hundred books on Florida topics for the county library, another addition to its many contributions to Columbia County.



Dade County

Population:	1,267,792
Chairmen:	John Ring (1969-1970) Lester Johnson (1970-1973) William S. Frates (1971-1973) Sylvan Meyer (1973-1976)
Vice Chairmen:	Leslie Pantin Dr. Charles E. Perry Ralph Renick Francena Thomas
Secretary:	Eunice Liberty
Treasurer:	Ivan Faggen
President:	Norma Hunt
Past Presidents:	David Blumberg William S. Frates Lester Johnson John Ring
Executive Director	Stephen D. Nostrand, Jr.
Past Executive Director:	Elmer E. Jones
Total Grants:	\$666,962

Miami was designated by President Richard Nixon in 1970 as one of four official Bicentennial sites for the nation's celebration, joining Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. In part, Nixon's action resulted from a request by several Dade County civic leaders for such recognition. While the three older cities claimed a historically significant past, Miami, because of its youth, looked to the future. Accordingly, Third Century USA, Inc. was founded in 1970 as a non-profit corporation by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce to conduct south Florida's Bicentennial celebration. It would eventually become the largest local Bicentennial organization in the South and the second largest in the nation.

Instrumental in the development of Third Century were several community leaders. John Ring, Elmer Jones, William Frates, Lester Johnson and Norma Hunt served for varying periods as president. Its executive directors included Jones and Stephen Nostrand, Jr., while Sylvan Meyer was chairman of the organization. A twenty-five member executive committee headed by Meyer and Hunt served as the organization's chief decision making body. This committee worked with a board of trustees, which eventually consisted of more than 225 persons. This board was divided into several panels charged with specific areas of responsibility. Each panel developed a portion of the projects program, and assisted in its work.

Dade Countians were instrumental in developing the plan for funding Florida's Bicentennial activities with pari-mutuel receipts. In return for that support, and in consideration of the county's large population, the Commission granted \$641,464 to Third Century for development of its program and \$100,000 to the Inter American Center Authority (Interama), which was also to play an important role in the celebration. Other sources of funding included federal, county and municipal governments. Under the direction of Nostrand, Third Century conducted an active fund raising campaign, soliciting donations from major corporations in the area. Third Century's budget grew accordingly. From a relatively small figure in 1972, the budget by 1975 had reached \$250,000.

Initially, Dade County's Bicentennial plans focused on the controversial Interama project, a 1700-acre tract in North Miami intended for development as a hemispheric trade, educational, and entertainment center. While the Interama Authority was responsible for actual physical development of the site, it cooperated closely with Third Century. That organization, in keeping with Miami's special national designation, planned to sponsor a Bicentennial exposition on the scale of a World's Fair at the Interama site. Feasibility studies were conducted, designs for some of the proposed buildings were drawn, and other preliminary projects were carried out. However, the entire Interama scheme foundered when the economy slowed down, interest rates rose, and county residents rejected a bond issue for the project's support.

Third Century also set other goals as part of a broad, ambitious program. The projects, all of which reached fruition, included beautification of Martin Luther King Boulevard, a long-term project designed to improve a major thoroughfare in Miami's black community, as well as create a cultural center therein, creation of a Bicentennial park along Biscayne Bay, cleanup of the Miami River and construction of a walkway along part of the river, involvement of Dade County schools in the Bicentennial celebration, a Bicentennial bicycle marathon, and a monthly journal of Third Century activities. Other projects included annual Independence Day celebrations; a Greens project for beautification of areas under Dade's expressways; Planet Ocean, a museum of water and its properties in the world today; Exterior Sensory Learning Environment, the world's first park designed for the severely handicapped and a hemispheric conference for women, attended by 600 delegates from twenty-three countries.

By 1973, Third Century was progressing toward its goals. Under the leadership of Nostrand and Meyer, it opened closer communications with community governments in Dade County to encourage their active participation in the Bicentennial celebration. The board of trustees, now numbering more than 160 and functioning through several panels or committees, had completed some projects and was working on others. For example, the Cultural Events Panel planned such activities as the Charles Ives Centennial Festival, a series of musical performances which opened in 1974, honoring the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ives, a renowned American composer. Other projects included a photography exhibit, the Omni Film Festival, and programs in conjunction with Miami's Opera Guild, the Greater Miami Philharmonic Society, and the Miami Beach Symphony. The Historical and Commemorations Panel unveiled a historical marker program, supervised publication of *Bicentennial Chronicles*, and planned a film on the history of Florida. The Quality of Life Panel supported the boulevard project, funded by passage of an 8.5 million dollar bond issue, the bayfront park, and a riverfront promenade. An Inter-Service Organization Panel coordinated a speakers bureau, and an Educational Panel worked closely with the Dade County school system.

Miami's large ethnic population was also actively involved in the Bicentennial. The Hispanic Committee of Third Century, in conjunction with Miami's Latin American community, planned a Cuban museum of art and culture and beautification of Eighth Street in the heart of the Latin district. The black community participated with the Historical Association of Southern Florida in its marker program and a black archives project, and sponsored dramatic presentations featuring the works of black American playwrights. Representatives of the Seminole Tribe conducted arts and crafts exhibitions in several county locations.

Thirty-nine new projects were added to Third Century's master activities list at the end of 1975. Among the programs that the organization sponsored during the Bicentennial year were athletic tournaments, art and music festivals, including "Hooray USA." Other programs included an educational program involving schools in the Bicentennial celebration, local appearance of the American Freedom Train in December, and a spate of historical publications. Third Century also assisted in the promotion and organization of the Hemispheric Congress for Women.

American Freedom Train



Independence Day 1976 celebrations in Dade County were highlighted by the largest naturalization ceremony ever held in America, when more than 7,200 new citizens gathered in the Miami Beach Convention Hall to take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. This ceremony was nationally televised. The weekend also included ceremonies at Marine Stadium on Biscayne Bay sponsored by the *Miami Herald*. The Society of Art in North Miami hosted a commemorations ball, while the Biscayne Committee presented a varied program of events. "One Nation Under God," an interdenominational choral service at the new Bicentennial Park on Biscayne Bay was another notable event. Community picnics were held in Miami Springs, Homestead, Opa Locka, and South Miami. Hialeah, Coral Gables, North Miami, and North Bay Village also sponsored traditional festivities. "Hooray USA," one of the nation's most spectacular Bicentennial pageants, began a two-week run in Miami on Independence Day. The pageant, sponsored by the Miami Chamber of Commerce and directed by Ernie Seiler, presented the history of America in spectacular song and dance form in the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Under the direction of Third Century, Miami enjoyed one of the nation's largest municipal Bicentennial efforts. During its five years of existence, hundreds of projects, festivals, and cultural events were provided for area residents. Many of those project contributed lasting benefits to the community.

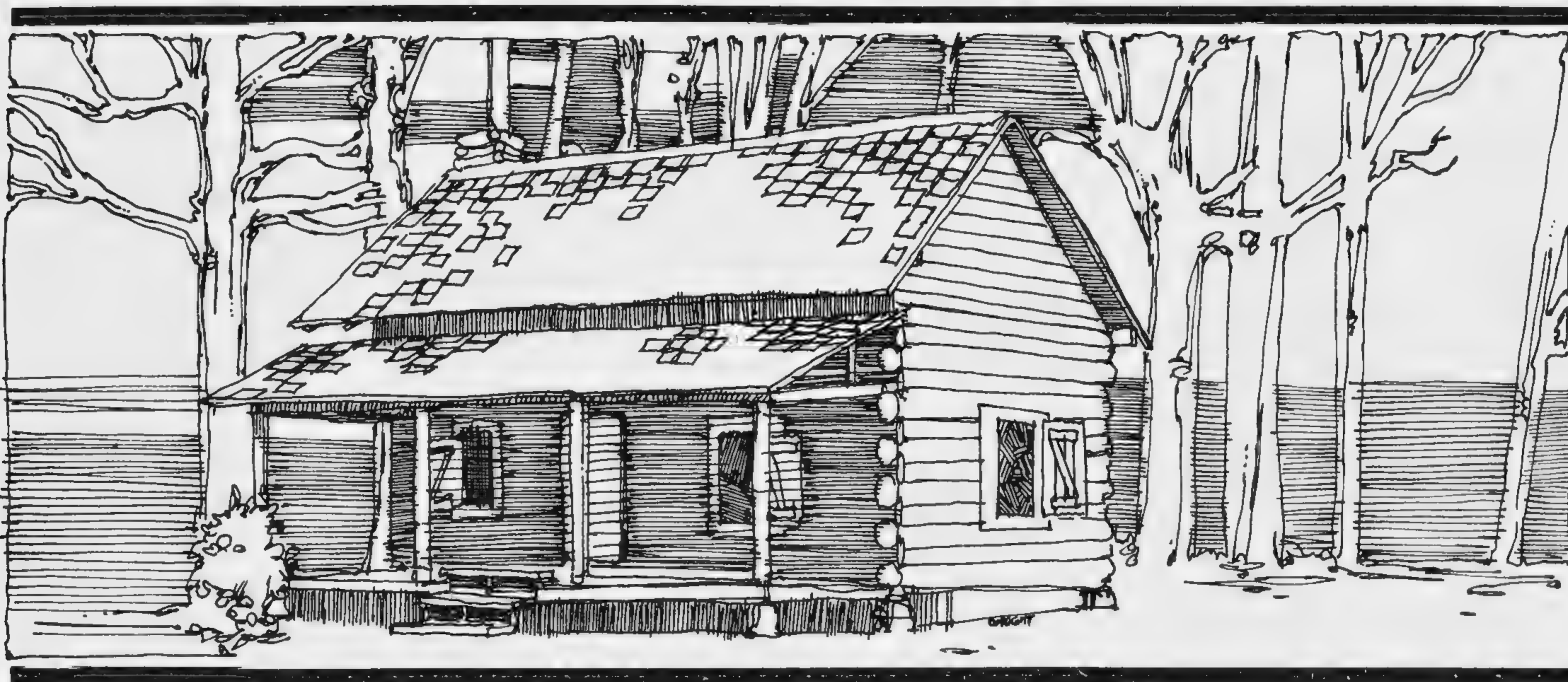
DeSoto County

Population: 13,060
Chairman: James C. Kynett (1973-74)
Henry M. Lanier (1974-77)
Administrative Grant: \$1,500
Project Grants: None

Largely rural and small in population, DeSoto County staged a modest Bicentennial program that yielded several projects of historical value. The Action '76 Committee was organized early in November 1973, but not until the spring of 1974 did it begin meetings to plan its projects. They included involvement in constructing a community civic center, construction of flag poles in Arcadia park, community flag displays, purchase of historical books for the library, and construction of a log cabin replica of the first courthouse on the present courthouse lawn. The committee presented Bicentennial medals to an Australian baseball team and worked closely with schools, churches, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Chapter of DeSoto County in Bicentennial activities.

Henry Lanier, who became chairman of Action '76 in August 1974, contributed to organization of the DeSoto County fair, scheduled for early January, which was designed with a Bicentennial theme.

July 4, 1976, activities were organized in Arcadia and included a rodeo, parade, barbeque, and fair. A Mr. and Mrs. Bicentennial were selected to preside over the event. The log cabin replica remains on the courthouse lawn as a testimonial to the county's Bicentennial effort.



Dixie County

Population: 5,480
Chairman: Hal Chewning, Jr. (1974)
Marie C. Smith (1974-77)
Vice Chairman: Allen H. Harden
Secretary: Myrtice Copeland
Treasurer: Herbert Langston
Administrative Grant: \$500
Project Grants: None

The Bicentennial effort in rural Dixie County, sixty-second in population ranking among Florida's counties, was chaired by Mrs. Marie Smith. Organized in July 1974, the Steering Committee eventually numbered twenty-four persons. It planned a broad range of community improvement activities for, as Mrs. Smith noted, "We want to remember the Bicentennial as more than a great firecracker."

The program envisaged community cleanup campaigns, presentation of films on American history, a county history, placement of historical markers, commissioning a painting of World War II hero Thaddeus Parker, and a veterans memorial. Considerable publicity attended the committee's program; numerous articles appeared in the county newspaper. The July 4 activities, spanning three days, included a historical pageant, unveiling the Parker portrait, and an address by Congressman Don Fuqua. Prayer services were held throughout the county. The county firemen, in cooperation with Mrs. Smith's committee, organized softball games, a parade, a flag raising ceremony, games and contests, a beauty contest, square dancing, and, of course, fireworks.

Duval County

Population:	528,865
President and Executive Committee Chairman:	George M. Linville (1973-77)
Vice President and General Counsel:	James C. Rinaman, Jr.
Secretary:	Constance H. Hansen
Treasurer:	Rodell Roberts
Administrative Assistant:	Deborah Epstein
Administrative Grant:	\$ 5,000
Project Grants:	\$58,312

Energetic leadership and an effective publicity drive were hallmarks of Duval County's Bicentennial program. The American Bicentennial Commission of Jacksonville (ABCJ), as the local organization named itself, obtained considerable aid from the city, including personnel and administrative funding. The city's support was sufficient enough, in fact, to permit the ABCJ to donate its original state Commission administrative grant of \$15,840 to neighboring St. Johns County.

Much of the ABCJ's success can be attributed to George Linville, a Jacksonville realtor, who served as chairman from the committee's inception in January 1973. His organization ultimately embraced twenty-one committees and 270 "commissioners." In the committee's organizational stages, Linville received assistance from Henry Dartigalongue in organizing and attracting private sector support for Bicentennial projects.

Original project plans were ambitious and included an inventory of Jacksonville's historic buildings, a drug rehabilitation program, seeking money and accreditation for Edward Waters College, reestablishment of the Old King's Road, which snakes through Jacksonville, as a historical landmark, and a countywide cleanup campaign. Duval County's Bicentennial program received early recognition from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration when, in January 1974, it was designated as a Bicentennial Community. The committee obtained financial support from the IBM Corporation for Edward Waters College as well as increasing public support for the King's Road project.

The committee's public relations effort included publication of a newsletter, a periodic four-page insert in Jacksonville's major newspapers, brochures, and radio and television advertisements. Through such means, the committee promoted and publicized the literally hundreds of events that it sponsored or participated in throughout the area. Numerous organizations joined the ABCJ, including local armed forces contingents, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Duval County schools, civic clubs, churches, the Jaycees, the Jacksonville Symphony, and others. Energy conservation, veterans' activities, and involvement of schools in the Bicentennial program were major features of the ABCJ's effort in 1975. New projects included establishment of a twenty-five mile historical trail, known as the Fort Tonym Trail, aid to the Jacksonville Children's Zoo, assistance for the Duval Association of Retarded Citizens, and promotion of the Jacksonville Children's Museum.

Duval County was awarded a number of Bicentennial grants from the state Commission. They included state assistance to the Joseph E. Lee Memorial Library and Museum, designed as a major repository of archives and records relating to the history and accomplishments of black people throughout Florida and particularly in the Jacksonville area. The Joseph E. Lee center was also placed on the Florida Bicentennial Trail. Two Commission grants were awarded to the Jacksonville Children's Museum. Other programs receiving assistance were a Bicentennial Flag Pavilion, historic trail brochures, King's Road markers, St. Johns Bluff historic signs, an American Opera, Concerts of American Music, feasibility study for a "home of the future" (an energy efficient house whose construction began in April 1977), and Jacksonville's Arts Fourth Festival, part of its Independence Day celebration.

Events on July 4 included a bewildering array of ceremonies, such as a performing and visual arts celebration, a hike on the King's Road, a citywide picnic and parade, and a bicycle race. Thousands of county residents participated. Numerous civic organizations cooperated with the ABCJ in planning and conducting the activities.

Through cooperation with the City of Jacksonville, Linville was able to operate his committee with several full-time committee members. That approach contributed greatly to providing the kind of organization and continuity required for a successful program of the scope planned for Jacksonville. So successful was the program deemed that plans were made to retain the Bicentennial committee as a permanent fixture to promote the arts and cultural and civic improvements.

Escambia County

Population:	205,334
Chairman:	Warren M. Briggs (1971-75) James H. Jesse (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	Warren M. Briggs
Secretary/Treasurer:	Allen Chandler
Administrative Grant:	\$ 10,000
Project Grants:	\$164,360

Escambia County formed the first Action '76 Committee in Florida and provided the model for the development of similar programs elsewhere in the state. In addition to that important role, the Escambia County Action '76 Committee also produced an excellent program for its own area, one rich in community and historical projects and characterized by a highly articulate organization.

Several reasons accounted for the unique role that Escambia County played in the Florida Bicentennial program. The first of these was the fact that a local resident, Pat Dodson, played a major part in the formation and organization of the Florida Bicentennial Commission and contributed to the development of a national Bicentennial program. Dodson was able to translate much of his experience on the state and national level to developing a program within the county. A second reason was the presence of a large military establishment in Escambia County, providing major assistance and cooperation to local residents.

A local businessman, Warren Briggs, became first chairman of the Escambia Committee when it was formed in July 1971. Briggs proceeded carefully in organizing his committee which, within a year, included citizen's task forces totaling 250 persons.

The task forces included community design, elementary and secondary education, transportation and communication, tourist development, public safety, recreation, health and welfare, economy, art, drama, and music. Each task force supported and directed numerous programs. For example, the Task Force on Transportation and Communication reported assistance in construction of major highways through the county and of the old Spanish Trail Road, efforts to improve the regional airport, support for port expansion, and initiation of a countywide free telephone system. Tourist development reported progress in making beach improvements, development of written guidelines for historic restoration, placement of district powerlines underground through historic areas, promoting county beautification, and arranging special transportation in historic districts.

Major projects listed by the Action '76 Committee in the spring of 1973 provide an idea of its scope. There were hundreds of projects, but the most ambitious were acquisition and development of Fort George Park, a major restoration of the old city of Pensacola waterfront, reconstruction of a British gaol dating from the Revolutionary War period, construction of a new Naval Aviation Museum, redevelopment of the Pitts Slip area in Pensacola Bay, restoration of the Historic Barkley House, reconstruction of Tivoli High House (also on the state Bicentennial Trail), acquisition of the Saenger Theatre by the City of Pensacola, and preparation of numerous local histories.

The committee received considerable assistance in its publicity effort from the *Pensacola News Journal*, which in May 1973 ran a ten-part series analyzing the achievements of the Action '76 program in its first year. Interestingly, the *News Journal* credited the committee with assistance in obtaining approval for construction of two major highways crossing the county.

In its August 1973 application for Bicentennial Community status, the committee listed restoration of the Historic District of Pensacola, the Fiesta of Five Flags, and a five-year comprehensive countywide goals program of improvement as major activities. In the spring of 1975, James Jesse, publisher of the *Pensacola News Journal*, succeeded Briggs as chairman of the program. Briggs, however, remained involved in committee activities. Jesse presided over a staff headed by Executive Director Allen Chandler. Bicentennial committees at the University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College and Pensacola Naval Air Station cooperated with the Action '76 Committee throughout the Bicentennial period. As 1975 came to a close and the area prepared for the Bicentennial year, Escambia County presented a splendid array of festivals and programs. One of the more noteworthy involved the performance of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra, which was sponsored by Action '76.

July 3 was designated as Family and Neighborhood Day with an emphasis on family picnics, family reunions, neighborhood picnics, and festivals. July 4 was, as might be expected, celebrated in spectacular style. It featured a "God and Country Day," with churches conducting appropriate services. July 5 was designated Festival Day, and set aside for bands, parades, sports activities, and fireworks. Smaller festivals throughout the weekend were held in different parts of the county and included activities of every kind.

The Escambia County Committee's activities continued to be novel and sweeping. Particularly notable was its success in fulfilling its historic building objectives. The statewide Bicentennial program benefited immeasurably from the example that Escambia County set.

Flagler County

Population:	4,454
Chairman:	John A. Clegg (1974) Harry R. Moody (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

Named for Henry Morrison Flagler, who opened Florida's east coast with a railroad network developed in the 1880s, Flagler County is predominately rural though relatively large in area, characteristics that hindered organization of a countywide effort. Under the leadership of Harry Moody, the Action '76 Committee, formed in 1974, undertook a modest program in cooperation with the Flagler Women's Club.

The committee's program included painting fire hydrants to resemble Civil War soldiers and assisting in the preservation and maintenance of the original Old King's Road, built by the British between 1763-1783. Additionally, the committee planned a parade and the unveiling of a monument for Independence Day in 1975. Preparation of a history of Flagler County became an additional project. The Bicentennial celebration on July 4, 1976 included a parade that featured a United States Navy Band, fireworks, picnics, and prayer services.

Franklin County

Population:	7,065
Chairman:	James S. Daly (1973-75) Shaun S. Donahoe (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	James S. Daly
Secretary:	Margaret Key
Treasurer:	Richard C. Watkins
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grant:	\$10,000

Franklin County's Bicentennial was distinguished by efforts of Action '76 to use the Bicentennial as a means to uplift the spirit and economy of an area that had recently suffered economic dislocations.

The Action '76 Steering Committee was organized in June 1973. Jim Daly, Mayor of Apalachicola, county seat of the sprawling coastal community, accepted the committee chairmanship with the stipulation that the Raney House, historically significant home of David Raney, a prosperous nineteenth century city merchant, would receive Bicentennial Commission funds for its restoration.

In 1974, Franklin County applied for status as a Bicentennial Community and developed a historical program which, in addition to restoration of the Raney House, included placement of markers at historical locations, and creation of a historical map of the area. Plans to restore the Raney House received support in April 1974 from Architect Willoughby Marshall of Boston, a former resident of Franklin County. The project became part of a plan to regenerate the economic life of Franklin County. In September 1974, Action '76 received a \$10,000 matching grant from the Bicentennial Commission of Florida for one phase of the Raney House restoration.

Shaun Donahoe succeeded Daly as chairman of Action '76 in August 1975. Committee plans envisaged promotion of studies in local history, refurbishment of the historic old cemetery of Apalachicola, and development of a local site for a marine science study center. An application for a Bicentennial Commission grant to support the latter project was made. The committee was also involved in the area's most significant local event, the Seafood Festival. July 4 activities included a family field day and fireworks at Carrabelle. The committee's activities essentially concluded in August when the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit made a one-week appearance in Apalachicola.

Gadsden County

Population:	39,184
Chairman:	Alexander L. Hinson (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Mitchell N. Drew
Secretary:	Emily Higdon
Treasurer:	Sara May Love
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	\$2,500

Efforts to organize a Bicentennial committee in Gadsden County, which lies in the area between the Suwannee and Apalachicola Rivers above the bend of the Florida peninsula, began early in the fall of 1972

when representatives of the Florida Bicentennial Commission met with interested citizens in Gretna and in Quincy. Actual formation of the Gadsden County Bicentennial Committee did not come until late 1974, however, when Quincy attorney Alexander Hinson agreed to chair a steering committee of fifteen members. Starting late, the committee proposed to sponsor a project that in Hinson's words "would serve as a permanent commemoration and a recognition of our unique heritage." The committee decided to produce a history of the county and applied for a grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission. At the same time it planned patriotic observances in the county, distribution of historical material, support for the Florida State Hospital's Centennial publication, and a tour of the Josua Davis home, one of the oldest wooden structures in north Florida.

In April 1976 a commemorative celebration was organized at the county courthouse in Quincy featuring an arts and crafts display. Thousands attended and each of the schools in the county provided musical entertainment. The July 4, 1976 celebration was highlighted by prayer services throughout the county. Later that year the publication on which the Steering Committee had so diligently worked was produced. Authored by Gadsden County resident Miles Womack, Jr., the history, entitled *Gadsden: A Florida County in Word and Picture*, was surely among the most handsome and ambitious publications produced in Florida during the Bicentennial. The 341-page volume contained hundreds of photographs and illustrations, statistics, genealogical information, and chronologies in addition to the narrative portion. The committee solicited funds for the publication from patrons and sponsors, many of whom contributed \$500. The county commission also assisted in its production. The history is a useful, colorful, and memorable testimony to the dedication of the Gadsden committee.



Renovation of the Joshua Davis house, the oldest structure in Gadsden County was a private Bicentennial project.

Gilchrist County

Population:	3,551
Chairwoman:	Hilda S. Kressman (1974-77)
Vice Chairman:	Charles Hatch
Secretary/Administrative Assistant:	Inge Mauthner
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

The Bicentennial effort in Gilchrist County was led by Mrs. Hilda Kressman, Mayor-Commissioner of the county seat of Trenton. The committee was organized in the fall of 1973.

Gilchrist County suffered the fate of many small, rural counties in that it failed to develop adequate support for the Bicentennial effort. Plans were made to center the county's Bicentennial activities around three major projects. The first was development of the Bartram Historical Trail, dedicated to the early American naturalist and revolutionary figure who traversed the area in 1774. A second was establishment of a Bartram Memorial Garden featuring the flora described in Bartram's book, *Travels*. The third project involved the fiftieth anniversary celebration of Gilchrist County, which was named for Albert Gilchrist, the twentieth governor of Florida. The anniversary celebration adopted the Bicentennial as its theme. Plans continued at the close of the Bicentennial to promote the Bartram Trail development.

Glades County

Population:	3,669
Chairman:	Merlin Freer (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

Like Gilchrist and other counties of slight population, Glades County's Bicentennial efforts obtained little popular support despite the efforts of the Steering Committee.

The Bicentennial program suffered from a lack of adequate leadership until Merlin Freer became chairman of the Action '76 Committee in 1975. Under Freer a number of projects were designed including creation of recreational facilities, county historical research, a cultural center, and a wayside park. Lack of funding and support from the widely disbursed population in the county prohibited the committee from significant development of any of the projects, however.

In conjunction with the county Jaycees the Action '76 Committee promoted the July 4, 1976 celebration, which included games, parades, a picnic, and countywide prayer services.

Gulf County

Population:	10,096
Chairman:	George N. Kilbourne, Sr. (1974) Robert H. Ellzey (1974-77)
Secretary:	Clara Miller
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$ 800

Development of the Gulf County Bicentennial program was spearheaded by the county's Lions Club, which requested assistance from the Bicentennial Commission of Florida in organizing a county committee in 1973. Not until late 1974 was a chairman named, however, when R. H. "Bob" Ellzey, Superintendent and Traffic Manager of the Apalachicola Northern Railway Company, took on the duties. The committee applied for and received a grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission to restore the historical Old St. Joseph Cemetery and in 1975 it hosted a visit by the Armed Forces Bicentennial Exhibit. The local historical society assumed major responsibility for development of the cemetery project, while six county organizations, including the Lions Club, Jaycees, and the historical society arranged most Bicentennial activities. The Lions Club sponsored a number of Bicentennial films and speakers and the county Jaycees conducted the Independence Day 1976 program, which included a family picnic, games, and contests.

Hamilton County

Population:	7,787
Chairman:	Robert B. Marvin (1973-75) Loraine Kiefer (1975-77)
Secretary:	Maude Havener
Treasurer:	Ann Malpas
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grants:	\$8,250

Hamilton County is the locale of the Stephen Foster Center in White Springs, a memorial to the popular American composer. The center, which attracts thousands of visitors yearly, is deeply involved in enhancing appreciation for and recognition of American folk music and music composed by native Floridians. The White Springs Bicentennial Committee, which assisted in organizing displays for visitors at the Center, cooperated closely with the Hamilton County Action '76 Committee in sponsoring a highly spirited and successful program in that area.

Robert Marvin, a Civil War buff, became the first Action '76 chairman in the fall of 1973. His committee soon applied for Bicentennial Community status for the county seat of Jasper and within a year decided upon a further list of projects that included historical tours of the county, historical markers, a history of White Springs, a community crafts shop, collection of historical data on White Springs, sponsoring a Florida folk festival, and a beautification project involving tree planting and restoration of the old springhouse.

Loraine Kiefer succeeded to the chairmanship of the Action '76 Committee in the fall of 1975. Under Mrs. Kiefer's guidance the committee diligently pursued its projects and cooperated closely with the state Bicentennial Commission in carrying out its programs. Among the first of her responsibilities was preparing for the appearance of the Bicentennial Wagon Train in early 1976. Mrs. Kiefer also maintained close liaison with the county commission, schools, and church groups. The committee completed its historical marker program and acquired American flags to line the streets of Jasper for the July 4 activities. It produced a history of Hamilton County that was published by the local newspaper in Jasper and completed beautification projects in several parts of the county.

The Florida Bicentennial Commission extended a grant of \$7,500 to the Stephen Foster Center for a fall 1976 concert series that featured leading folk music artists in the United States. The White Springs Committee and Stephen Foster officials were also active in promoting and directing "Florida Day" in Washington, D. C., a display of the work of Florida artists that took place in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on May 25, 1976.

Independence Day, 1976, activities were held in Jasper and in White Springs, while throughout the county, church services were held with ministers and the congregation alike appearing in historic costumes. A large number of county residents attended the celebration in White Springs, which featured food, games, and traditional July 4 activities. Mrs. Kiefer successfully completed the work of the committee, which planned to remain active as a historical society.



Hardee County

Population:	14,889
Chairman:	Curtis Ezelle (1973-77)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Curtis Ezelle
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	None

Located in southwest Florida, Hardee County initiated its participation in the Bicentennial commemoration in May 1973 with the appointment of Curtis Ezelle as chairman of its Action '76 Committee. Although it represented a sparsely populated rural county, the committee, headquartered in the county seat of Wauchula, began planning a program that would emphasize the Bicentennial theme of Festival USA.

The chairman and his five-member committee outlined activities in early 1974 that included support for a \$600,000 agri-civic center, a "God and Country" celebration for September 1975, and a large Bicentennial celebration in March 1976. Ezelle, who faithfully attended state Commission meetings, effectively publicized his committee's program and solicited new ideas from Bicentennial workers throughout Florida.

In 1975 the Kiwanis Club sponsored a ten-day educational trip to Washington, D. C. for youths, publicized and hosted the appearance of the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit in August, and produced a "God and Country" program in September featuring patriotic and religious services.

The climax of Action '76's activities came in the following March with the appearance of Senator Lawton Chiles and Elaine Godin, Miss America of 1976, at the Pioneer Park Day celebration. Between 45,000 and 50,000 attended this colorful tribute to the nation's two-hundredth birthday. The program, which featured a flea market, music, and speakers, contrasted with Action '76's low-keyed activities. Although not completed by July 4, 1976, the extensive Agri-Civic Center project, which attracted county financial support, was well underway at the close of the Bicentennial.

Hendry County

Population:	11,859
Chairman:	Bernard Rasmussen (1974-77)
Administrative Grants:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$7,000

The Hendry County Action '76 Committee was organized in the summer of 1974 with Bernard Rasmussen and Bill Robinson named chairman and co-chairman respectively. Bicentennial committees were formed in the communities of Clewiston and LaBelle. Projects undertaken by the various committees included purchasing and placing Bicentennial flags in schools and county buildings, purchase of historical books for community libraries, restoration of the city park in Clewiston, and designation of the Hendry County Courthouse as a historic building. Action '76 also assisted in promoting a church history week, the Bicentennial Schools Festival program, and a historical marker project. Restoration of the Civic Center Park in Clewiston was awarded a \$5,000 state Commission grant.

Celebrations on July 4, 1976 took place in LaBelle and Clewiston. Clewiston held an old-fashioned picnic with fireworks and games. The LaBelle Bicentennial Committee raised funds for a free barbeque to which the entire community was invited. The day was capped with patriotic songs, fireworks, and games. Both communities' committees continued to function through the end of the year. Work continued on the park project in Clewiston while the LaBelle committee pursued its plans for restoration of the Hendry County Courthouse.

Hernando County

Population:	17,004
Chairman:	Thomas J. Deen, Jr. (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Robert Westrick
Secretary/Treasurer:	Susan N. Beagles
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$9,500

Hernando County, organized in 1843 as Florida's twenty-second county, selected an able leader in Colonel Tom Deen. The committee was formed in August 1973 and at once embarked on an ambitious program of activities. Motivated by patriotism, the well-organized group delegated specific areas of responsibility to its members.

Deen proved highly effective in mobilizing committees, publicizing activities, and pursuing specific goals. In 1974 the committee applied for state Commission grants for a patriotic park, historical museum, music and drama production, county history, and a beautification drive. It encouraged county high school graduating classes of 1976 to prepare a Bicentennial program and sought support for a community fine arts council. The Spring Hill Garden Club led the county's beautification effort.

The committee adopted its own Bicentennial logo and an official song, "The Bicentennial March." Some forty projects were in progress during 1975, including a Bicentennial room in the county library and a Bicentennial park in Brooksville.

Subcommittees worked in the areas of festivities, fund raising, horizons, heritage, the community college, and public and private schools. Deen supported Pasco-Hernando Community College's bid for a state Commission grant to aid development of a museum. Seven thousand dollars was awarded to the project, which unfortunately had not materialized sufficiently by the close of the Bicentennial to use the funds. The state Commission thereupon reallocated the funds to public improvement programs in various county communities. Another Commission grant supported publication of *A History of Hernando County* written by Richard J. Stanaback, professor of political science at the college.

The July 4 celebration began with a parade which led to a "Village in the Round" celebration organized by the ten largest communities in the county. This celebration included a prayer service, games, picnics, fashion show, beard contest and a two-hour pageant which was written and performed by local talent with approximately 250 persons participating. The evening ended with the largest fireworks in the history of Hernando County. An estimated 18,000 people participated in the events.

The turnout was not surprising since Deen's committee had employed an effective publicity campaign using newspaper and radio coverage and an elaborate brochure describing the Action '76 Committee and its Independence Day plans. The result was symbolic of the success achieved in the entire county Bicentennial program.

Highlands County

Population:	29,507
Chairman:	Leland Brooker, Jr. (1973-76) Keith Cool (1976-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	\$4,250

Bicentennial activities in Highlands County were conducted largely under the auspices of municipal committees in Sebring, Avon Park, and Lake Placid. The mayors of the three cities served on the fifteen-member county Action '76 Committee, but little effort was initiated at that level. Each community undertook a major historical project: Sebring to restore its old city hall; Avon Park to restore a nineteenth century bandstand; and Lake Placid to create a Bicentennial park. State Commission grant awards contributed to restoration of Avon Park's bandstand.

Sebring's annual March auto race was linked in 1976 to the Bicentennial. Under the direction of General Elmer Sherwood, president of the Automobile Hall of Fame, the traditional parade that precedes the race adopted a Bicentennial theme.

Local groups and clubs continued to spearhead activities in 1976. The county committee was resurrected briefly in June 1976 and placed under the leadership of a Sebring resident, Keith Cool, who assisted the Chamber of Commerce in preparing for July 4 activities and helped attorney Joseph MacBeth secure a state Commission grant for construction of a municipal swimming pool.

Hillsborough County

Population:	490,265
Chairman:	Henry Gardner (1973) Caesar Gonzmart, Jr. (1973-75) Fred D. Learey (1975-77)
Vice-Chairman:	Edward C. Rood
Secretary:	Dana Greco
Project Administrators:	Paul Herskowitz Joseph A. Sanarese, III Catharine Knapp
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Fusor
Public Information Director:	Lisa Smith
Administrative Grant:	\$14,700
Project Grants:	\$29,125

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce initiated organization of a Bicentennial movement in Hillsborough County in late 1972 when chamber officials met with Bicentennial Commission representatives. Henry Gardner, a Tampa businessman, was named chairman in February 1973. Gardner and a sixteen member steering committee defined the initial goals of Action '76 as recognition of Tampa as an all-American city, selection of Ybor City as a national historical district, dedication of Picnic Park as a local Bicentennial recreational site, a program of patriotic music, and an American motion picture festival.

Caesar Gonzmart, Jr., grants administrator at Hillsborough Community College, replaced Gardner as chairman in October 1973. Gonzmart undertook an ambitious public relations campaign and drafted a program centered on Bicentennial Community status for Tampa, proposals for an environmental center, and selection of the venerable Tampa Bay Hotel and colorful Ybor City for the Bicentennial Trail. By mid-1974, the projects list had expanded to include a Bicentennial scholarship program, a Bicentennial program with Spain, theatrical presentations, and selection of Ybor City for the National Historical Register.

Other communities were also applying for Bicentennial Community status. Prominent among them were Plant City, Lutz, and Temple Terrace. In its application for Bicentennial Community status, Plant City listed projects which included conversion of an old school building to a community center, participation in the county fair, and publication of a history of the community.

During the first half of 1975, Gonzmart and his expanded twenty-one-member Steering Committee were busy on numerous fronts, applying for grants, increasing the scope of Ybor City's historical renovation, and directing additional communities in their applications for Bicentennial Community status.

In September of 1975, Gonzmart resigned as chairman of Action '76. Fred D. Learey, former president of General Telephone Company, took over at a time when activities were rapidly expanding in several parts of the county. MacDill Air Force Base, in applying for Bicentennial Community status, dedicated a new gymnasium to the Bicentennial, sponsored a Bicentennial fashion show, a historical village, and a Bicentennial tribute to black culture. Temple Terrace planned a lavish celebration of its fiftieth birthday with a Bicentennial theme. Plant City bought its old city hall and railroad station with plans for their restoration, while Lutz began making elaborate plans for its Independence Day celebration. Working with an expanded staff funded through a federal grant to the City of Tampa, Action '76 began publishing *County Crier*, a monthly tabloid with a "turn of the century" motif (a stylized version of the old *Florida Peninsular*) that highlighted countywide Bicentennial activities.

A spate of new projects and grants came with the Bicentennial year. In March, Learey and Action '76 unveiled a long list of impressive projects including refinishing of the Woodbridge Bridge, an American furniture display at the Tampa Bay Art Center, Retrospect '76, a Bicentennial historical project, a walking tour of downtown Tampa, and a Bicentennial educational showcase display. State grant monies also aided in restoration of Ybor City's Cuban Club, a community landmark, various cultural events and activities, Tampa's Riverside Cultural Center, and others.

July 4, 1976, was highlighted by impressive celebrations in several communities. In Tampa, Sunday in the Park, as it was styled, saw thousands of people gather to celebrate the Bicentennial near the riverboat on the grounds of the University of Tampa's campus near the riverfront. The celebration included games, picnics, fireworks, and speakers. In Temple Terrace, the Bicentennial celebration began with a July 3 flag-raising ceremony at River Hill's elementary school. The celebration also featured food concessions, performance of a high school band, displays of various aerialists, booths, a decorated bike parade, and a \$2,000 fireworks display. The Jaycees of Plant City sponsored their annual Independence Day festivities on July 3, 1976. These activities included booths and displays at the Plant City Farmer's Market, a square dance, and a country singer. The Bicentennial Committee of Brandon scheduled activities for the first eighteen days of July, highlighted by a July 4 parade. July 4 festivities in Lutz featured a flag-raising ceremony at Memorial Park, bell ringing at 2 p.m., a parade, games, and fireworks.

The Hillsborough County celebration was notable for the countywide cooperation organized by Action '76. Community Bicentennial leaders met periodically to review programs, exchange ideas, and coordinate activities. Included in the planning and implementation of the program were municipal and regional organizations such as the Tampa Bay Arts Council. Their efforts were successful in attracting considerable state grant support.

The most ambitious of the committee's projects, perhaps the largest single project undertaken by any local Bicentennial organization, was construction of the Tampa River Walk Parkway, a boardwalk along the Hillsborough River that included boat docking facilities, historical displays, and seating facilities. The total cost of the project was initially estimated at \$750,000.

Dedicated and experienced leadership, organization, broad community and county participation and cooperation, and an imaginative effort to celebrate the Bicentennial in a positive style that would truly contribute to community improvement characterized Hillsborough County's celebration.

Holmes County

Population:	10,720
Chairman:	Kelly F. Swindle (1974-75) Simon J. Burttschell (1975-76) Margaret Hall (1976-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	None

Organized in September 1974 under the auspices of the Holmes County Bicentennial Association, the Action '76 Committee in this Florida panhandle county initially developed an ambitious program, which included a wide array of festivals and historical projects.

The committee first drafted a constitution and bylaws and, in order to raise funds, sold Bicentennial membership cards throughout the county, and held a kickoff featuring costumes, refreshments, and music. It issued a formal announcement to the citizens of Holmes County to contribute to the development of an action plan and to suggest programs with which to attract state support. Under the direction of Chairman Kelly Swindle and Executive Director Simon Burttschell, the committee was incorporated in 1975. Hoping to attract cooperation from the county's four communities, it distributed 7,000 copies of its "goals" which outlined seventeen projects and programs and divided the county into seven areas for Bicentennial administrative purposes. A thirty-one-member Steering Committee with numerous active subcommittees was created. They included a Youth Committee which sponsored hiking tours of historical spots and a

Bicentennial Nature Trail, a History Committee which collected Holmes County historical data, and an Arts and Crafts Committee which planned a large mural of historical events in the county.

By February 1975, many of the projects goals had been translated into grant applications, including a memorial for local veterans, historical markers, a program for cleaning up streams, flag flying, high school tours of St. Augustine and the Kennedy Space Center, a county history, weekly historical notes in the *Holmes County Advertiser*, and a recreation park.

Swindle resigned in March 1975, and was replaced by Burttschell, who kept Action '76 on the same course. In May 1975, the Holmes County Bicentennial Association exhibited its most publicized project -- sponsorship of a Vietnamese refugee family which drew statewide press notice. July 4, 1975 was an occasion not only to celebrate another birthday for the nation, but also the achievement of Bicentennial Community status for Holmes County. State Representative Wayne Mixson presented the Bicentennial community flag to committee members, and the area's high school band performed for the crowd. The year was also notable for the county fair with its Bicentennial theme. Many persons at the fair wore colonial costumes, while numerous exhibits carried a Bicentennial theme. United States Savings Bonds were awarded to the most outstanding costumes and projects.

Mrs. Margaret Hall replaced Burttschell in early 1976 and presided over numerous Bicentennial activities. To raise money for a monument in honor of American servicemen, Action '76 sponsored a barbeque and Bicentennial art display, and distributed the county's Bicentennial logo to various organizations and individuals. Holmes County also extended a warm welcome to the Bicentennial Wagon Train when it stopped in the county on its pilgrimage to Valley Forge. Independence Day celebrations included a songfest attended by 18,000 persons, unveiling of the servicemen's monument in front of the county courthouse in Bonifay, dedication of a gazebo, a fish fry, and burial of a time capsule in Westville, and placement of another time capsule in Izagora, the original county seat.

Later in the year the county hosted the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit. As for other Bicentennial projects, large numbers of persons enthusiastically viewed this exhibit.

Indian River County

Population:	35,992
Co-Chairmen:	Sam T. Joyce (1974-77) Irene C. Menser (1974-77)
Secretary:	Irene C. Menser
Treasurer:	Angelo J. Sanchez
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	\$1,500

Formation of an Action '76 Committee in Indian River County was not accomplished until October 1974 when the Board of County Commissioners persuaded Sheriff Sam Joyce and Mrs. Irene Menser to become co-chairmen of the Steering Committee. The committee acquired an office in the Vero Beach Women's Clubhouse and drafted a program of activity designed to achieve Bicentennial status for the county. Its activities were widely publicized through newspaper and radio advertisements and coverage. Chief among the projects that the committee supported was renovation of the Woman's Clubhouse, the city's oldest building, for which it submitted a grant request to the Bicentennial Commission in 1975. Additional projects included a fire plug painting contest, a history of Indian River County, a covered wagon medicine show, an Indian River County logo contest in high schools, and marking of a historic trail west of Vero Beach.

The committee officially opened its Bicentennial celebration in October of 1975 with ceremonies at the Civic Arts Park in Vero Beach. The county formally concluded its observance on July 4, 1976, with activities that included special church services, joining the nation in bell ringing ceremonies at 2 p.m., a parade, and fireworks. During the Bicentennial year the committee also sought and obtained Bicentennial Commission grant support to purchase copies of the history of Indian River County for distribution to county schools.

Jackson County

Population:	34,434
Chairman:	Kelso Gillenwater (1974-75) Claude M. Reese (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 2,500
Project Grant:	\$15,000

Jackson County's Bicentennial program was first discussed in a meeting of the Cottondale Kiwanis Club in February 1973 at which the state Bicentennial program was explained by Commission representatives.

Not until September 1974, however, was a steering committee organized. Kelso Gillenwater became the first chairman. Among the early historical projects designed by the committee were construction of a library, commission of a portrait of Governor John Milton, publication of colonial recipes in local newspapers, historical markers, and a tour of historical homes in the county seat of Marianna. Claude Reese replaced Gillenwater as chairman of the committee in 1975.

A major program undertaken by the Jackson County Committee was assistance in the construction of a county library. The committee applied for and received in 1975 a \$15,000 Commission grant for the project. Additional use of administrative monies raised the sum to more than \$16,000. Initial plans called for renovation of one of two older buildings into a new library. That idea was eventually scrapped and in its place plans were developed to construct an entirely new building.

A "Liberty Day" parade in March drew a large attendance, presaging an enthusiastic participation the following July 4. The Independence Day 1976 celebration at the Dozier School included games, picnics, contests, prayer services, and fireworks.

Bicentennial year activities included an appearance of the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit in September. Like other Bicentennial events in the county it drew a large number of people. As 1976 ended the committee was still fully engaged in completion of the county library.



More than 800,000 people viewed the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit.

Jefferson County

Population:	8,778
Chairman:	John M. Finlayson (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	T. Buckingham Bird
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grants:	\$4,100

Jefferson County's Action '76 Steering Committee began operations in June 1973 with the appointment of John Finlayson of Greenville as chairman. Although the county is rural and small in population, participation in the Bicentennial was particularly notable for its several fine historical projects.

With financial support from the Jefferson County Commission, the Jefferson County Historical Association, and even the Jefferson County Watermelon Festival, Action '76, beginning in 1973, arranged an impressive program of historical projects, including a *History of Jefferson County*, a Bicentennial historical marker program, a downtown preservation project for Monticello, and a county historical survey. Involvement with historical projects was the thrust of Action '76's activities.

Jefferson County's Independence Day 1976 celebration featured a beard-growing contest, a songfest, and fireworks. The celebration was held at the Monticello High School auditorium and football field.

Perhaps the most enduring legacy of the program will be the history, written by Dr. Jerrell Shofner, chairman of the Florida Technological University History Department.

Lafayette County

Population:	2,892
Chairman:	Michael E. Tackett (1973) Milton E. Ceraso (1973-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

With less than 3,000 inhabitants, Lafayette County is the least populated of Florida's counties. It is essentially a rural community, a fact which presented obvious difficulty in the organization of an active and viable Bicentennial committee.

The Action '76 Steering Committee was organized in the fall of 1973. The first chairman was soon succeeded by Milton Ceraso, who continued to serve as chairman during the remainder of the observance. The county's Bicentennial program was obviously small. The committee did cooperate with other organizations in local projects that included implanting a historical marker on the courthouse lawn in Mayo and joining the county high school in restoring several old school bells and church bells to their original sites.

July 4, 1976, was celebrated in a traditional way in Lafayette County. The Action '76 Committee planned the two-day weekend of events that included music, a countywide worship service, a picnic, a patriotic songfest, and fireworks. An estimated 1,600 of the county's inhabitants participated in the festivities. The local newspaper and the county's 4-H Club assisted the Action '76 Committee in conducting the program.

Lake County

Population:	69,305
Chairman:	Joseph A. Stich (1973-74) Mr. & Mrs. E. Lamar Black (1974-75) J. Carl Smith (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	Barbara Wyckoff
Secretary/Treasurer:	Horace Jones
Administrative Grant:	\$ 3,105
Project Grants:	\$12,162

Lake County, a picturesque area dotted with some 500 lakes, indicated its interest in the Bicentennial in October 1972 when an Action '76 Steering Committee was organized with Mr. Joseph Stich as chairman.

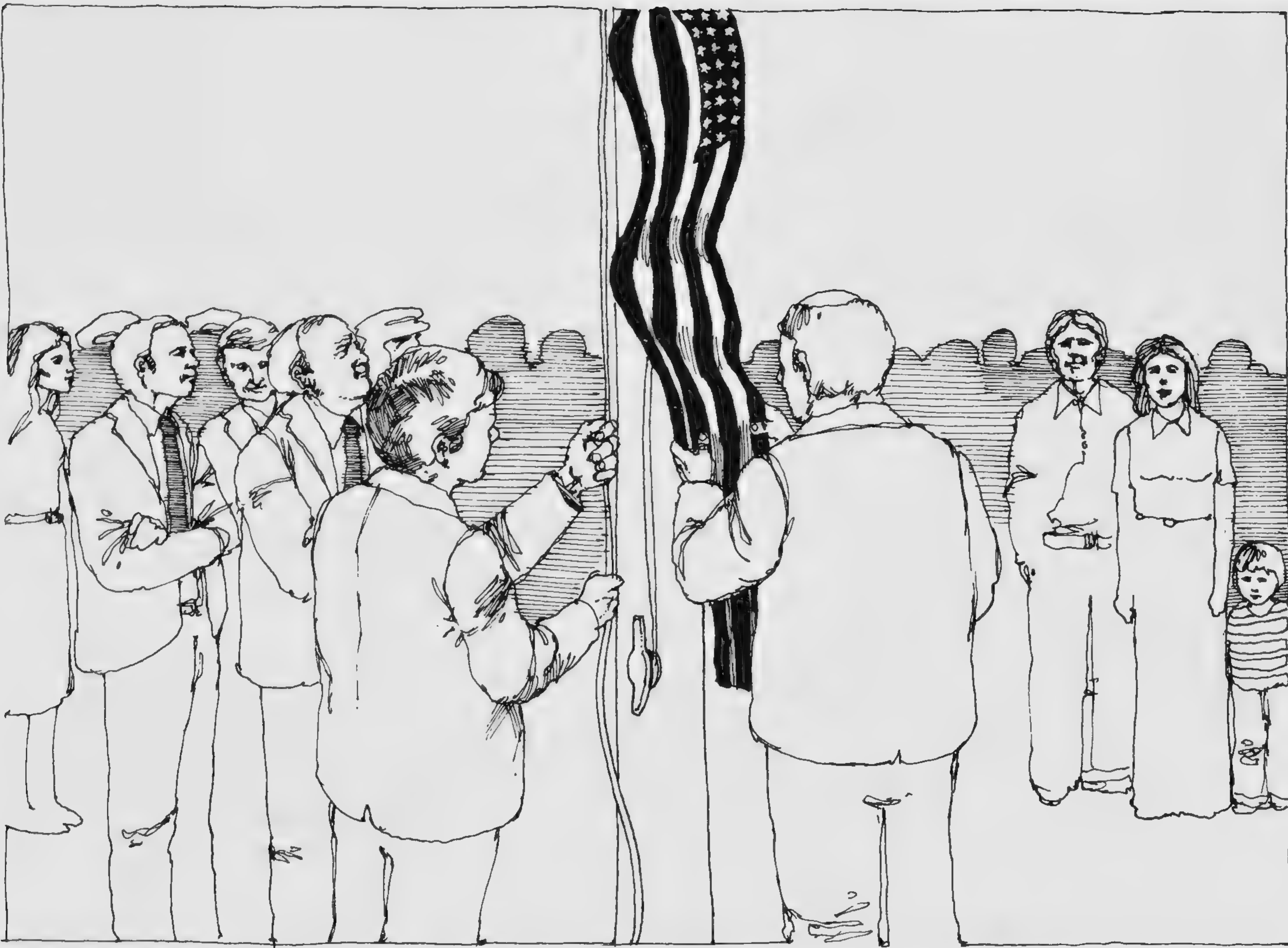
A ten-member Steering Committee initiated its first Bicentennial project with the dedication of McTureous Park, named for the World War II Medal of Honor winner. Under the chairman's leadership, Action '76 became broadly representative of the entire county, including the towns of Aster, Altoona, Eustis, Leesburg, Mount Dora, and Tavares, the county seat.

In February 1974, Stich resigned and was replaced by Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Black. Under new leadership the scope of Lake County's committee projects was increased as the Blacks traveled throughout the county speaking before civic and social groups and to the press to encourage Bicentennial participation.

By September 1974, Action '76 had registered its first grant request with the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. "Project Clermont," as it was fashioned, was designed to beautify downtown Clermont with plants and other embellishments. In the meantime, Eustis and Mount Dora planned an ambitious July 4, 1975 celebration.

Grant applications picked up as 1975 began. They included requests for funds for an addition to the Cooper Memorial Library, and a Bicentennial Little League Complex. By July, the project list had broadened, and now included improvements of many aspects of Eustis' youth activities. During this month, the Blacks resigned as chairmen of Action '76. Mr. J. Carl Smith and Mrs. Barbara Wyckoff replaced them in August.

Minutes of Action '76 meetings for the duration of 1975 indicate that it was engaged in numerous projects including dedication of the Donnelly House, a church and country program, a flag raising ceremony at a new post office building, and hosting the Bicentennial Wagon Train when it passed through the county. In addition, Action '76 contacted numerous Jaycee groups in the county regarding their plans for the two-hundredth birthday celebration, in an effort to coordinate all county Bicentennial activities.



While Action '76 was busy on many fronts, Lake Sumter Community College also had a full fledged Bicentennial program underway. This program included "The Constitutional Convention," a play portraying the debates at the Philadelphia Convention in 1787, student bulletins containing historical data, a patriotic music program, a flag display, a Bicentennial arts contest, and a Bicentennial showcase exhibit. As 1976 unfolded, Action '76 received grant monies from the Bicentennial Commission of Florida for the Little League Complex and bandshell improvements in Eustis.

Before, during, and after July 4, 1976, Lake County presented its citizens with a superb birthday celebration. The first major festivity occurred in March 1976, when Hawthorne Community in Leesburg turned out to welcome the Bicentennial Wagon Train on its way from Polk City to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The next major festival took place on the July 4, 1976, weekend. It included a parade in Mount Dora sponsored by the chamber of commerce and entitled "Moments in History," contests, and speakers. In Leesburg, on the Fourth, the Lions Club unveiled a monument and flag honoring all Americans from Lake County lost in previous wars. The following day, the city of Leesburg celebrated its one-hundred-first birthday. In September 1976, Action '76 dedicated a new fine arts-humanities building at Lake Sumter Community College in Leesburg.

Lee County

Population:	105,216
Chairman:	Al Gallman (1973-77)
Secretary:	Burnett Bloodworth
Treasurer:	William C. Smith
Administrative Grant:	\$ 4,200
Project Grants:	\$18,950

Lee County, one of the fastest growing areas in the United States, organized its Bicentennial Committee early and developed a program of broad community involvement.

In January 1973, Al Gallman of Fort Myers assumed leadership of Action '76. Within weeks his twenty-member Steering Committee had taken its message to television, radio, newspapers, and, in letters, to numerous political leaders. In addition, Gallman worked closely with the Bicentennial Commission of Florida.

Other groups and communities soon developed Bicentennial programs. Lee County's historical society requested grant money for a museum to preserve county historical artifacts. Cape Coral organized a Bicentennial committee, while Lehigh Acres Public Library planned programs around a Bicentennial theme. Fort Myers' Jaycees worked for preservation of the stone arches, fifty-year old landmarks welcoming visitors to Fort Myers Beach, and Bonita Springs organized its Bicentennial program.

Throughout the celebration the committee's Bicentennial effort was effectively publicized by cities, schools, and other organizations. There were subcommittees for the Dunbar community, Edison Community College, Sons of the American Revolution, Lee County schools, and the city of Cape Coral.

The Bicentennial program received a boost when, in the fall of 1974, Lee County received a ten-acre site, valued at one million dollars, from local businessmen for a cultural center. Dr. David Robinson, president of Edison Community College and chairman of the Bicentennial Cultural Center Committee, confirmed the need for a cultural center in Fort Myers and stated that a center had become a goal of the Lee County Bicentennial Committee. Construction of the facility, designed to include a 2,700-seat auditorium and an art shop, was planned to begin by 1976.

The year 1975 was productive for Action '76, as Lee County received Bicentennial Community status, which it celebrated in November with a ceremony featuring representatives from several Bicentennial committees and Secretary of State Bruce Smathers. It also received a grant for the Junior Museum Planetarium project, and adopted "March to the Tune of America" as a Bicentennial slogan. The committee unveiled an ambitious list of projects, including the community cultural center, a public park and beach project, "How it Was," an audio and visual history of early Lee County, a Spanish festival, a black festival, and renovation of key structures and landmarks in the county.

Lee County's activities in 1976 were dominated by preparations for the nation's two-hundredth birthday celebration. Throughout this period, numerous subcommittees and organizations held festivals and ceremonies honoring the Bicentennial. Edison Community College, for example, sponsored on July 4, 1976, an American Art Exhibit, lectures, films, and programs from the Ringling Museum of Art. In August, it staged an American Film Series and an illustrated lecture on American history. To round out the Bicentennial year, the community college sponsored an American Film Classic, an art exhibit in southwest Florida, American Issues lectures, exhibit of works by art teachers, a drama on "Young Tom Edison," an American Musical Theater, and a celebration of an American Christmas in music.

The Dunbar community, Fort Myers' black settlement, dedicated a community center on June 27. The city of Fort Myers held three major events during the week of July 4; a special Bicentennial chorus in concert at the Fort Myers Exhibition Hall, a bell ringing ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the Fourth, and burial of a time capsule in a vault on the grounds of City Hall. Furthermore, the county held a naturalization ceremony for 130 new American citizens.

Strong and well-balanced in all areas of the observance, Lee County's Bicentennial program provided both a celebration worth remembering and enduring benefits for county residents.

Leon County

Population:	103,047
Chairman:	Joseph K. Hennessy (1973-74) John E. Hunt, Jr. (1974-75) Lee Vause (1975-77)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Shelton Kemp
Executive Secretary:	Jacqueline Offutt
Administrative Grant:	\$ 4,120
Project Grants:	\$32,931

In Leon County, seat of both the state government and the Bicentennial Commission of Florida, the Bicentennial program gradually gathered momentum as 1976 approached, resulting in an overall program of substantial historical and commemorative accomplishments. Activities began in July 1973 when the Commission appointed Joe Hennessey as chairman of the county's Action '76 program. Under his leadership, the committee assisted the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board in obtaining a \$1,000 grant from the Commission for restoration plans of the gardens at the Brokaw-McDougall House. However, Hennessey resigned in April 1974 and, after three months, was succeeded by John Hunt, Jr.

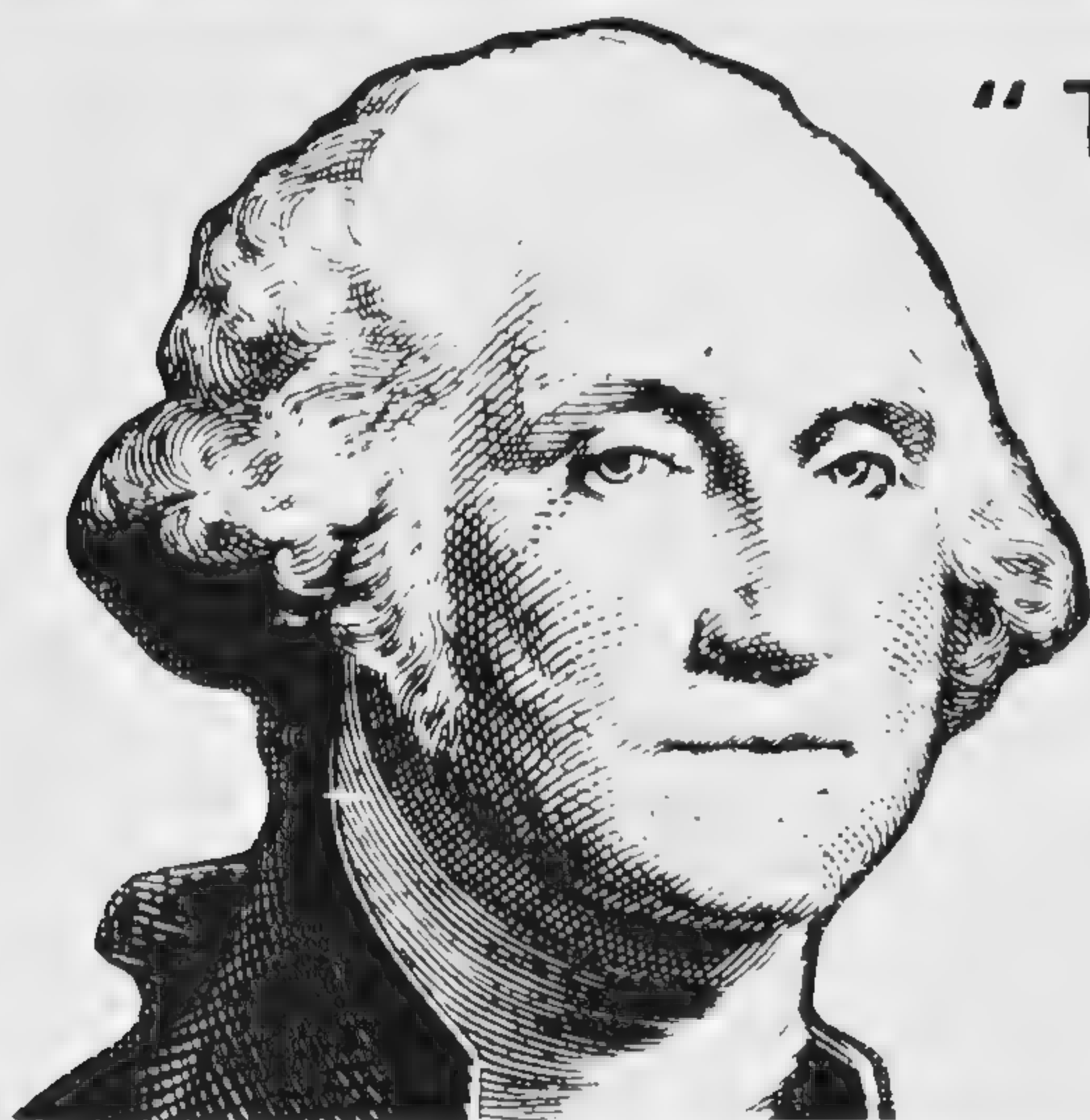
Mr. Hunt infused new life into the committee by inviting the public to attend Action '76 meetings and offer suggestions, working with the Tallahassee Mall in sponsoring an All-American Soap Box Derby, and assisting the Frenchtown Merchants Association in applying for grant monies for a "Frenchtown area" project.

By early 1975, the Leon County program had expanded considerably. Action '76 now had a list of projects that included applications for Bicentennial Community status, a bronze plaque for the Liberty Bell near the Capitol, a Junior Museum project, fireplug painting, Kent Theater Art contest, a Colonial Dames

project, a "cleanup-spruce up" campaign, restoration work on the Brokaw-McDougall House, and plans for a red, white, and blue George Washington Day parade to herald "the official opening" of the county's Action '76 Bicentennial program. The climax of the parade would be the planting of a cherry tree in the garden of the Brokaw-McDougall House. In March, Florida State University and the Commission jointly hosted the history symposium, "Eighteenth Century Florida and the Revolutionary South."

Progress continued, although Hunt resigned in May and was succeeded by Lee Vause as chairman of the twenty-six-member Steering Committee. The committee's executive board met monthly to study numerous applications from different county groups for grants to projects like construction of a building and restoration and refurbishing of existing farm buildings at the Tallahassee Junior Museum, staging of community events at the Charles McArthur Center for the American Theater to visually narrate the history of the theater, and publication of a history of the Pisgah Methodist Church. The Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board received \$15,000 for improvements on the Brokaw-McDougall House residence and grounds.

Besides studying project applications, Action '76 oversaw numerous Bicentennial projects, planned for 1976, and distributed brochures soliciting Bicentennial ideas from county residents. It also established twelve Action Committees to handle specific parts of its program, such as youth activities, traveling exhibits, Afro-American programs, and July 4, 1976, activities.



" The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of governments."

George Washington
Farewell Address (1796)

With the arrival of the Bicentennial year, many projects began to reach fruition. In January, the county became an official Bicentennial Community. In February, Action '76 observed Black History Month with other civic groups, held a religious liberty celebration, conducted a very popular fireplug painting contest, sponsored a freedom rally, welcomed the Bicentennial Wagon Train, and hosted a concert by the United States Navy Band. The program for March included a commemoration of the Battle of Natural Bridge sponsored by Cub Scout Pack No. 9, a Bicentennial poetry contest, reconstruction of the Apalachee Indian Farm by the Junior League, and a community band concert featuring traditional American music.

During the following month, the Steering Committee, in cooperation with the state Commission, sponsored Schools Festival Week celebrations in county schools. Additional projects held included a bicycle show, a lecture on the Marquis de Lafayette and the United States during the Revolution, a Bicentennial fashion show, a salute to America from the Tallahassee Barber Shop Harmony Society, and reenactment of Paul Revere's midnight ride. Springtime Tallahassee's annual parade was based on a Bicentennial theme and received assistance from Action '76, which also entered a float in the Thomasville Rose Parade.

May was also an eventful month. It saw an Afro-American Folksong Pageant, a Bicentennial Christian chorus recital, a musical multi-media presentation, and Emancipation Week celebrations featuring soul food, a street dance, an art and talent contest, and tours of black homes and gardens.

Bicentennial fever increased in June as many groups prepared for Independence Day celebrations. Those festivities, sponsored by the Leon County Bicentennial committee, the Tallahassee community, and Florida State University, included an opening ecumenical service in the downtown park, the ringing of the Liberty Bell throughout the county, a parade, day-long family activities at Doak Campbell Stadium, and, finally, a fireworks display at dusk.

In Leon County the Bicentennial continued beyond the Fourth. The next major event on the Action '76 calendar came in September with the Fourth Annual Leon County Rodeo, which featured a Bicentennial theme. October was Bicentennial Arts Month, sponsored by the Tallahassee Arts Council. This festival included cultural and historic events on each weekend during the month at various historical sites in Leon, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties. Later in the month, Springtime Tallahassee presented a reenactment of the history of Leon County. County Bicentennial celebrations ended in November with a Thanksgiving observance that included burial of a time capsule whose contents documented activities and programs carried on during the Bicentennial year, and sponsorship of a visit by the American Freedom Train.

Levy County

Population:	12,756
Chairwoman:	Norma M. Hutson (1974-77)
Vice Chairmen:	Gladys Meriweather Doris Beauchamp Marguerite Caddell Linda Shaw James Deas
Secretary:	Jean Wynn
Treasurer:	Gertrude Rutherford
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	\$3,000

Levy County, small in population but large in area, pursued an ambitious and enthusiastic Bicentennial program, highlighted by several community programs which were endorsed and coordinated by Levy County's Action '76 Steering Committee.

In the spring of 1973, the Bicentennial Commission of Florida received letters from Levy Countians who wanted to establish a Bicentennial program. Accordingly, a Commission staff member met with interested citizens in Chiefland, the county seat, and reviewed proposed plans to restore an old town hall. As a result of that meeting, Norma Hutson was named chairwoman of the Action '76 Steering Committee, and plans were initiated for the development of a Bicentennial program.

By 1975, Action '76's seven-member steering committee was meeting frequently in various cities in Levy County. The committee was developing ideas, a list of proposed activities, and publicizing its program in local press releases. Suggested activities included a flag carrying ceremony along U.S. 41 on July 4, 1976, community cleanups, tree planting, construction of a handball court and a stage, and restoration of the old Prescott building in historic Cedar Key, a project that did not materialize despite a grant award by the Commission.

Action '76 made various efforts to involve the community in its Bicentennial program. It requested films, speakers, and printed material from the Bicentennial Commission which were provided and utilized; sponsored a contest to devise a logo for its Bicentennial program; and disseminated patriotic material to Levy County schools to supplement materials already in use in classroom instruction.



By the spring of 1975, Bronson, Chiefland, Yankeetown, Cedar Key, and Williston had large Bicentennial committees working closely with Action '76. This arrangement worked well. For example, Williston's ambitious Bicentennial Committee soon announced that it was undertaking twenty-four Bicentennial-related projects. For its part, the county committee, through Mrs. Hutson, was engaged in frequent correspondence with the Bicentennial Commission, requesting funds for new projects or queries on new ideas for Bicentennial activities.

By 1976, Action '76 was in high gear, as Cedar Key unfurled the "Dill Project," a complete history of the area in pictures, and conducted tours of old homes. Yankeetown and Inglis were preparing for their participation in the Highway of Flags ceremony, while Action '76, in addition to coordinating each community's Bicentennial program, was also overseeing completion of a history of Levy county, planning cleanup and restoration of the cemetery in Bronson, compiling a list of historical sites for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, painting in patriotic colors all the fireplugs in the county, and promoting the Bicentennial on local radio throughout the county. In addition many communities were researching histories, beautifying and enhancing landscape areas, preparing time capsules, and completing ideas for a giant July 4 celebration.

The weekend of July 4, 1976 was indeed a great celebration, as each town in the county participated in games, fireworks, bell ringing, a watermelon festival (Chiefland), art festivals, a series of parades, and tours of new and old homes.

Levy County presented a richly varied Bicentennial program with ample enthusiasm, community involvement, and refreshing accomplishments.

Liberty County

Population:	3,379
Chairman:	Newton Van Walden (1974-75) John W. Ritter IV (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$500
Project Grants:	None

Deep in the panhandle, sparsely populated Liberty County sponsored a modest Bicentennial program, inaugurated in the fall of 1974 when Action '76 was organized under the chairmanship of Newton Walden, who was soon succeeded as chairman by John Ritter. The only major project undertaken was the Independence Day celebration in 1976. Those festivities saw some 1,500 participants and volunteer workers join in old-fashioned activities, arts and crafts displays, a flea market, and a demonstration of emergency medical aid.

Madison County

Population:	13,481
Chairman:	C. E. "Bill" Russell (1973-75) Bernard E. Wilson (1975-77)
Secretary/Treasurer:	Glendle Littleton
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	None

A Bicentennial program was initiated in Madison County in October 1973, when C. E. "Bill" Russell agreed to chair the county's Action '76 Steering Committee. With Commission assistance, an organizational meeting of interested citizens was held in January 1975. Mr. Russell, however, resigned the following November.

As 1976 began, his replacement, Bernard Wilson, injected new life into the committee's activities. Now twenty members strong, Action '76 applied for Bicentennial Community status for the county. It organized several events around planting of a commemorative tree in the city park, including dedication ceremonies, a school essay contest to name the tree, and burial of a time capsule near the tree on July 4, 1976. Action '76 also planned an antique show at Madison City Hall, dedication of the Madison County Memorial Hospital, a fashion show of historical dress, a religious program for the entire community, a religious and patriotic musical program, and assistance with the Madison County Historical Society's project for purchasing and restoring an old cotton gin. Further activities included hosting the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit and preparing Independence Day festivities.

On the Fourth of July, Madison County climaxed its anniversary observances with ceremonies at North Florida Community College, a picnic, an oldtime fashion show, a decorating contest, a songfest, various skits and, naturally, fireworks.

Manatee County

Population:	97,115
Chairman:	Fred Langford (1973-74) Colonel Ziba Ben Ogden (1974-75) Arthur Schofield (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 3,880
Project Grants:	\$12,594

The Manatee County Action '76 Steering Committee was organized in the summer of 1973 by N. E. "Bill" Miller, Director of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. Fred Langford, president of Palmetto Federal Savings and Loan Association, served as chairman during the committee's first year of existence and was replaced by retired Colonel Ziba B. Ogden in July 1974. In the latter part of 1974, Ogden and Action '76 began organizing a program that emphasized important historical projects, including identification of a route along the DeSoto Trail and preservation of the original county courthouse and the United Methodist Church, believed to be the oldest church between Tampa and Key West.

By early 1975, other communities and groups, including Longboat Key, were pursuing Bicentennial programs. In its application for Bicentennial Community status, Longboat Key listed a twenty-eight-member steering committee and eighteen projects, including historical markers, beautification plans, and the planting of 1,000 trees.

Mr. Arthur Schofield took over the committee in September 1975. He served for the remainder of the Bicentennial.

On December 31, 1975, a New Year's Eve Watch Night service was held at the Manatee United Methodist Church. Action '76 also assisted in a week-long celebration in February on Anna Maria Island, a part of the DeSoto Week celebration. Later, in February, one hundred persons went on the first of four Bicentennial bus tours of an old village in Manatee. In March, the Manatee County Historical Commission began preparations for a large July 3 Bicentennial fete at a recreated historical park, a project aided by a \$12,500 state Bicentennial Commission grant. Preparations were underway for construction of a gazebo and flagpoles and restoration of an old church and Manatee County's first courthouse, both of which were moved to the park. Throughout this period, a Bicentennial exhibit of American art was on display at Longboat Key Art Center.

Manatee County's school system presented programs with Bicentennial themes, participated in a Bicentennial hike to Indiana, and produced T-shirts featuring an American eagle. A blind group in the county, the "Polk-A-Dot Club," sponsored a Bicentennial party and open house at the First Congregational Christian Church. In addition, the U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan appeared in Bradenton; the Women's Council of Realtors sponsored a bus tour of Manatee County; Manatee Boy Scouts hiked along the Hernando-DeSoto Trail; and Manatee County's Republican Club sponsored a Bicentennial dinner.

The county's Independence Day celebration featured a varied program. On July 3, 1976, the original courthouse in Manatee County and the old United Methodist Church in the Manatee Village Historical Park were dedicated. On July 4, 1976, an open house was held at the Gamble Mansion in Ellenton, Florida, one of the oldest buildings on the west coast of Florida. July 4 also included countywide church services, and bell ringing. On the following day, a children's parade, Bicentennial show, boat parade, picnics, and a brilliant fireworks display on Anna Maria Island closed out the celebration. A record of the county's Bicentennial activities was compiled by Schofield and published. An accomplished writer and local school board chairman, Schofield contributed many articles to local newspapers promoting Bicentennial themes.

Marion County

Population:	69,030
Chairman:	John R. Hugli, Jr. (1973-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$3,105
Project Grants:	\$ 900

Marion County's modest Bicentennial program resulted in two local historical accomplishments: a history of blacks in Marion County and restoration of the old MacIntosh Railroad Depot.

In March 1973, the Ocala-Marion Chamber of Commerce requested aid from the Bicentennial Commission of Florida in organizing a local committee. Not until January 1974, however, did Action '76 begin work following the appointment of John Hugli as chairman. Mr. Hugli and committee members stressed their desire to use the observance for lasting, historical contributions to the community.

To fulfill this promise, Action '76 began preparations for a history of black citizens in Marion County, and preservation of the MacIntosh Railroad Depot. "Friends of MacIntosh" planned to convert the depot into a railroad museum with a series of 1890 festivals centered about this project.

By the fall of 1975, the Action '76 Steering Committee included thirty-eight members, who were busy preparing for the appearance of the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage, the Air Force Bicentennial Caravan, and the celebration on July 4, 1976.

The Independence Day celebration was the work of Action '76 and the Ocala Jaycees. The program centered on a "God and Country Day" at a municipal park. Approximately 20,000 people participated in games, competitive sports, a barbecue, fireworks, and songs led by a choir of 300 voices.

Martin County

Population:	28,035
Chairman:	Jack Hartman (1974) William D. Connolly (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 2,500
Project Grant:	\$10,000

The Bicentennial reached Martin County in April 1974 when Jack Hartman of Stuart was persuaded to take leadership of Action '76 within the county. Coincidentally, the Martin County Board of Commissioners announced creation of another Bicentennial committee for the county sponsored by the Holpotiokaki Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This organization announced ambitious plans for Bicentennial projects with considerable citizen involvement. In December of 1974, William Connolly replaced Hartman as chairman of Action '76.

Early in 1975, a twenty-member Steering Committee of Action '76 assumed overall coordination of the various Bicentennial plans and activities of the many communities and organizations within the county. The most ambitious project was restoration of the one-hundred-year old Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge sponsored by the Martin County Historical Society. A \$10,000 grant from the Bicentennial Commission aided this effort. The Historical Society also prepared a history of Martin County and held several celebrations throughout 1975 and 1976, including the one-hundredth birthday celebration of the House of Refuge in October 1975.

The Jensen Beach Bicentennial Committee became active in early 1975. This community committee sponsored a Freedom Shrine, promoted the use of specially designed patriotic decals and signs at the entrances to their area, encouraged flying of the American flag and coordinated local parades and celebrations.

The City of Stuart Board of Commissioners appointed a Stuart Bicentennial Committee during the summer of 1975 and conducted its organizational meeting in August. Officers of this group became members of the Action '76 Steering Committee and contributed extensively to the county-wide effort. Light poles throughout the city were painted with red, white and blue stripes, while the city water tower was painted with an American flag on each side. The city committee coordinated such events as the Exchange Club's Freedom Shrine, window displays, Girl Scout Living Pictures, Junior Women's Club Christmas Parade and the Garden Club Flower Show.

The pace of Bicentennial activities accelerated in the fall of 1975. Close communications were opened with the Bicentennial Commission of Florida which proved helpful to Action '76. In September the American Bicentennial Florida Exhibition visited Martin County under the auspices of the Action '76 Committee. In October, the Historical Society of Martin County, in conjunction with Action '76 and other Bicentennial organizations, staged an elaborate festival around the aforementioned centennial of the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge. Festivities included a parade on the Indian River of over one hundred small boats, which saluted the House of Refuge as its Bicentennial flag was raised. In addition, Action '76 of Martin County, Jensen Beach, and Stuart applied for Bicentennial Community status.

As 1976 approached, the Steering Committee rapidly expanded its program, assisting in completion of the restoration of the House of Refuge, undertaking a downtown beautification program, planning for a "God and Country" day in February, participating in the Martin County Fair in March and aiding the county school system in preparation of a special historical pageant.

Martin County's schools' Bicentennial committee staged a two-day Bicentennial celebration in February 1976. This pageant included a cast of 2,000 students from nearly every school in the county. Highlighting the festival were patriotic songs, a flag raising ceremony, and a history of the nation with each school taking a different period of history.

In March, the Martin County Fair Association dedicated its seventeenth fair to the Bicentennial with many local companies and organizations following the theme. The Interact Club of Martin County High School painted Stuart's fireplugs red, white and blue. The Board of Realtors supplied flags to be flown at each bridge and planted the national Bicentennial logo in petunias in front of their office.

In May 1976, Stuart's Bicentennial Committee staged a lavish Bicentennial parade on Memorial Day, while Jensen Beach held its own parade, as well as games, fishing, picnics, and an extravagant fireworks display on Independence Day. At the Indiantown Bowl, the nation's birthday was celebrated from July 2 to July 5 with music, games, rodeo, parachuting and pageantry.



Gilbert's Bar, House of Refuge, the Restoration was aided by a grant from the Bicentennial Commission.

Martin County Action '76 grew slowly at first. From the fall of 1975 through July 4, 1976, however, Action '76, with assistance from several community Bicentennial committees and local civic organizations, provided the citizens of the county with many excellent Bicentennial activities and programs.

Monroe County

Population:	52,586
Chairman:	Edward B. Knight (1973-74) Joe Allen (1973-77)
Vice Chairmen:	Charles McCoy Edward B. Knight
Executive Secretary:	Sandra E. Higgs
Administrative Grant:	\$ 2,600
Project Grants:	\$12,300

Monroe County's Bicentennial program effectively integrated the unique history of the county and Key West with the present, in the process bringing many citizens into the celebration and presenting the area with valuable legacies from historical projects.

After citizens of the Keys had inquired about local Bicentennial programs, a representative of the state Bicentennial Commission met with county civic leaders to organize Action '76 in the fall of 1973. Mr. Joe Allen and Edward Knight were selected as co-chairmen although Knight resigned within a few months.

By mid-1974, Action '76 operated its own office, had an intriguing logo, and was well underway with its program. Appointment of Sandra Higgs as executive secretary spurred further activity as she soon initiated requests for grants and Bicentennial-related documents for high schools and libraries, and unveiled an ambitious projects program which included an historical museum, a Bicentennial memorial park, tree planting, a Bicentennial ball, an oral history project, a countywide cleanup, and a drug abuse program. Applications to the Commission for grants for the memorial park, a history of Key West, and an oral history were made in the fall. Funding was obtained for the memorial park and the oral history. Action '76 also sponsored a contest to select a county seal and applied for Bicentennial Community status.

As some projects were realized, new ones were planned. While 2,000 newly planted palm trees were taking root, committee members were already completing plans for the San Carlos Museum and making arrangements for a massive Fourth of July parade in 1976. By now the projects lists had been expanded to include a Bicentennial ball, a Spanish-American War museum, renovation of Duval Street in downtown Key West, presentation of the musical "1776", a Bicentennial sidewalk art festival, an inventory of historical buildings in Monroe County, renovation of historic Key West, and a Bicentennial church program.

Other communities besides Key West were now becoming involved with their own Bicentennial programs. For example, the Bicentennial Committee of Key Largo was engaged in elaborate plans to host the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, while Ms. Higgs was encouraging the small settlement of Marathon to create a railroad museum.

A large Independence Day 1975 celebration, the first of its kind in ten years in Monroe County, attracted 20,000 people. It featured games, contests, dancing, and fireworks. The festivities were accompanied by an elaborate booklet containing information on the Bicentennial and extolling the historical wealth and uniqueness of Key West.

Bicentennial-related events occurred frequently. They included a ceremony in recognition of Key West-Monroe County's official designation as a Bicentennial Community in August; an elaborate ceremony surrounding the Traveling Exhibit in Key Largo in October; dedication of the historic Customs House in Key West in January 1975; and the Naval Air Station's Bicentennial Command designation ceremony in May 1976.

As in most other counties the Bicentennial celebration in Key West on July 4, 1976 was the culmination of hard work and proved to be a great success. A three-day festival began on July 3; it featured bicycle races, flea markets, and dancing in the streets. On July 4, church services were held. Later there were track and field events, a bicycle raffle, and a fireworks display attended by approximately 27,000 people. On July 5, the largest parade in the history of Monroe County proceeded down the main thoroughfare of historic Key West.

In all, Monroe County enjoyed a richly varied and highly successful Bicentennial program which provided historical projects and engendered feelings of Americanism that will continue to benefit county residents.

Nassau County

Population:	20,262
Chairman:	James R. Moore (1974-77)
Secretary:	Lynda Petree
Treasurer:	Don Roberts
Project Director:	James R. Libby
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grant:	\$5,000

Set in the extreme northeast corner of Florida, Nassau County has a rich vein of regional history. During their tenure from 1763 to 1783, the British constructed in the area the King's Road, the major highway linking the northern colonies to Florida. The only major Revolutionary engagement on Florida soil between English and American forces was fought in what is now Nassau County. Recognizing the area's historical significance, the Bicentennial Commission of Florida named two locations in the county, Fort Clinch and Historic Fernandina, to the Florida Bicentennial Trail.

Development of a commemorative park near the site of the Revolutionary War skirmish, the Battle of Alligator Creek, eventually became the major project of Action '76 which received for that purpose a \$5,000 Commission grant.

The Action '76 Committee was organized in 1974 at the urging of the county commission. Mr. Jim Moore, President of the county Jaycees, was named chairman.

Mr. Jan H. Johannes, a member of the committee in the western part of the county wrote and published a county history, *Yesterday's Reflections*. The Callahan group was also responsible for developing the park project.

The Independence Day 1976 celebration took place in two areas of Nassau County. At the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds, hundreds of people were treated to an all-day celebration including food, art work, games, and other entertainment. At Fernandina Beach thousands participated in afternoon activities, attended evening church services, and witnessed closing fireworks.

Okaloosa County

Population:	88,187
Chairman:	Foy Shaw (1974-75) B. A. "Bing" Bengtsson (1976) Gene Keen (1976-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$3,760
Project Grants:	\$9,000

Various communities and organizations in Okaloosa County, located on the Gulf Coast in west Florida, contributed effectively to the Bicentennial celebration. Among those taking an active part in the program were Fort Walton Beach, Niceville, Valparaiso, Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, and Eglin Air Force Base.

Okaloosa County began its program in 1973 when the Chamber of Commerce of Niceville-Valparaiso asked Dr. J. E. McCracken, president of Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, to contact the Bicentennial Commission of Florida regarding the establishment of a county Bicentennial unit. Dr. McCracken was given this responsibility because the chamber of commerce believed that his college's annual American Arts Festival could serve as a basis and springboard for a meaningful Bicentennial observance.

After several letters to the Commission requesting an organizational meeting, McCracken, in the summer of 1973 met with a Commission representative. But it was not until the beginning of 1974 that Okaloosa County's Action '76 was organized. At that time, Foy Shaw of Crestview was selected chairman of a twenty-member steering committee, which divided into subcommittees on heritage, horizons and festivals.

By spring of 1974, various communities and citizens in the county undertook Bicentennial activities on their own. For example, Niceville applied for and received Bicentennial Community status, while the Niceville-Valparaiso Junior Women's Club expressed a desire to undertake a median beautification program; in addition, the city of Crestview applied to the Commission for funds for landscaping, and Okaloosa-Walton Junior College presented a concert series, sponsored the Okaloosa and Walton County fairs, and made plans to present diplomas to the Niceville High School Class of '76.

Eglin Air Force Base developed its own Bicentennial program. In September 1975 Eglin applied for recognition as a Bicentennial Installation, and unveiled numerous projects for its Bicentennial celebration.

At about this time Shaw relinquished chairmanship of the Action '76 Steering Committee. In January 1976, the Commission and concerned Okaloosa Countians asked Gene Keen and B. A. "Bing" Bengtsson to serve as co-chairmen of the committee. While the new co-chairmen were attempting to get Action '76 moving, Eglin Air Force Base, with an excellent program, brought in the Bicentennial year with a bang, celebrating its designation as a Bicentennial Installation. Among those participating were Congressman Robert F. Sikes, Dr. William R. Adams, Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida, and the Niceville High School Band. Eglin had a long list of projects, many of which were already completed, including a heritage park, freedom forest, Johnny Horizons cleanup campaign, Horizons '76 Bicentennial Trail, and the restoration of Eglin's oldest remaining building.

With the support of Representative Jerry Melvin, belated grant requests from Okaloosa County were submitted to the Commission. They included an application for \$10,000 from Fort Walton Beach for the reconstruction of a temple at the Fort Walton Temple Mound and Museum Archaeological Site, and a request for funding for a Spirit of '76 statue for Fort Walton Beach. The Commission awarded \$8,000 toward the first project and \$1,000 for the second, which unfortunately did not materialize.

Independence Day festivities in 1976 varied from town to town. Crestview, for example, featured fireworks, singing, and prayer services; Niceville sponsored a two-day celebration that included a parade, fireworks, games, entertainment, band concerts, and gospel singing, all of which drew about 4,000 people to the celebration. In addition, Congressman Sikes, accompanied by Carl Albert, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, visited the county that weekend to dedicate the new library in Crestview.



Fort Walton Temple Mound and Museum Archaeological Site. This facility was developed with funds provided by the Bicentennial Commission.

Okeechobee County

Population:	11,233
Chairman:	Siegel N. White (1974) Harold Turner (1974-76) Margaret Ager (1976-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 1,500
Project Grant:	\$16,250

Okeechobee County's Action '76 program began in June 1974 when Siegel White agreed to become chairman of the nascent committee. Mr. White wasted little time in organizing a program. He recruited an eighteen-member steering committee, which quickly grew to thirty-seven, representing a broad spectrum of interests in the county, and opened communications with the state Bicentennial Commission by attending one of its meetings and carrying on frequent correspondence. Within a short time, the committee applied to the Commission for grant money to renovate the county's old schoolhouse and convert it into a museum. A grant of \$16,250 was awarded for the project. A second application requesting funds to remodel the chamber of commerce building and beautify the park around it, however, was denied. Mr. White's tenure with Action '76 ended in December 1974, when he resigned to move out of state.

The new chairman, Harold Turner, expanded the projects and activities of his committee. Prominent among the new projects undertaken were plans for construction of a fishing pier on Lake Okeechobee and Independence Day celebrations for 1975 and 1976. In April 1975, the county became an official Bicentennial Community, a fact commemorated in ceremonies the following Labor Day.

By this time, the Okeechobee County Historical Society and Action '76 were cooperating on plans for the 1976 Fourth of July celebration, as well as on the schoolhouse restoration and fishing pier projects. One Steering Committee member, Margaret Ager, was also considering publishing a history of the county. Although the history did not materialize, Ms. Ager became chairwoman of Action '76 in March, in time to implement plans for a two-day Independence Day celebration featuring a parade, old-fashioned games, and fireworks. The committee, finally, obtained a \$40,000 federal grant to complete its pier project and moved the old schoolhouse to a two-acre site where it will reside as the centerpiece to a county Bicentennial park.

Orange County

Population:	344,311
Chairman:	Doris R. Swann (1973-75) Rolfe G. Arnhym (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	Bernard Brender
Secretary:	Jacqueline M. AmRhein
Treasurer:	Stephen D. Weis
Administrative Grant:	\$12,040
Project Grants:	\$28,750

Over the course of four years, Orange County carried out an especially active multi-level Bicentennial program. Numerous communities within the county sponsored their own local projects, while Action '76 not only developed countywide activities, but also coordinated some projects with the adjacent counties of Osceola and Seminole.

In the fall of 1972, state Bicentennial Commission representatives met with an ad hoc group, the central Florida Bicentennial Committee, to organize Action '76 for Orange County. Action '76 soon emerged with Doris Swann of Winter Park as chairwoman. She was assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Rolfe Arnhym, who later became co-chairman, and Mrs. Karl Hubbard, who became executive director of Orange County's Action '76.

By mid-1973, Action '76 was busy on several fronts and was receiving much publicity for its program. Twenty-two committees, dealing with such areas as women's clubs, youth activities, and historical projects had been established. Furthermore, the organization already had an office and a staff and was issuing bimonthly bulletins. Within a few months, the Steering Committee began to work closely with the Central Florida Bicentennial Planning Council, a tri-county coordinating committee for Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties.

The first projects began to bear fruit in 1974. Action '76 cooperated with Florida Technological University when, in conjunction with the state Commission, it hosted a Bicentennial symposium on frontier life in eighteenth century Florida. Shortly thereafter the tri-county area was recognized as an official Bicentennial Community. In November, Action '76 supported a large Veteran's Day parade.

Other projects underway included development of the Loch Haven Arts Center, a "Five Flags" park, expansion of the John Young Museum, a medallion coin for each year of United States history, a

Bicentennial film tracing Florida's history, Bicentennial plays and musical series, development of a history of Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties, an Orlando Centennial stamp, a Florida Symphony Bicentennial series, a Bicentennial scholarship program, an art museum, a youth congress, television panels on history and political science, creation of Bicentennial floral designs within parks, a Bicentennial television series featuring prominent local personalities, urban beautification, downtown development, and a library square development project.

Early in 1975, upon Swann's resignation, Arnhyrn became chairman of Action '76. Assisted by Captain Bernie Brender and Ms. Jackie AmRhein, Colonel Arnhyrn stepped up the pace of Bicentennial activities. *More Than a Memory*, a commemorative book on Orange County partially funded by a Bicentennial Commission grant of \$20,000, moved closer to publication, while Arnhyrn besieged the Commission with further grant applications. Several of these, including proposals for a Bicentennial Exhibit Center at the Church Street Station in Orlando, a Suitcase Exhibit program at the John Young Museum, a Bicentennial park in Eatonville, a history of central Florida, and restoration of an old fire engine in Winter Garden, eventually received Commission grants totalling \$18,750.

Local events related to the Bicentennial began to appear. Windemere, for example, celebrated both the national anniversary and its own fiftieth birthday in June 1975. Some 200 people, many dressed in red, white, and blue, attended the ceremonies. In July, Belle Isle began year-long festivities featuring numerous special events and projects. The one-hundredth anniversary of Orlando was also commemorated with special ceremonies sponsored by Action '76.

By now the twenty-three committees under Action '76 were actively involved in various projects. For example, the Film Committee was planning a series of Bicentennial films for the fall of 1975. Action '76 was also publishing *Bicentennial Beat*, a new monthly newsletter, concerned with Bicentennial activities in the county.

As the Bicentennial year unfolded, Action '76 and its twenty-five committees, as well as several communities in the county, staged numerous celebrations and festivals. Perhaps most impressive was a musical extravaganza held in June in Orlando's sports stadium.

The 1976 Fourth of July celebration was memorable in several communities in Orange County. In Orlando, the Independence Day celebration consisted of five hours of continuous entertainment at the Lake Eola Bandshell with large orchestras for easy listening music, country groups, square dancing, and fine singing groups and quartets. People enjoyed the entertainment while dining on picnic lunches. The festival culminated in a large fireworks display. In Maitland, thousands of people witnessed an Independence Parade on July 3. There also were flag raising ceremonies, children's games, a beauty pageant, and a dinner at the Civic Center. This celebration, like Orlando's, was climaxed by a fireworks display. In Ocoee, a parade took place on the afternoon of July 3, and was followed by a dance in the evening. On Independence Day, there was a flea market and a ski show. In Winter Park, a citywide picnic was held at the city park on Lake Apopka on the Fourth.



The Orlando Guards and the Knights of Pythias in an 1890's July Fourth procession in Orlando.

Numerous communities and thousands of people participated in Orange County's Bicentennial program, which also produced many projects of long range, tangible benefit. Furthermore, this program was unique in that it cooperated with two adjacent counties, thus presenting not only the citizens of Orange County, but also those of central Florida with ample opportunity to celebrate the Bicentennial.

Osceola County

Population:	25,267
Co-Chairman:	Robert A. Fisk (1973-77)
Co-Chairwoman:	Helen Thomas
Secretary:	Julia R. Sharpless
Treasurer:	William L. Hackett
Administrative Grant:	\$ 2,500
Project Grant:	\$15,000

With the effective support of the local chamber of commerce, Osceola County fashioned a successful Bicentennial program, noteworthy for contributions such as construction of an art and cultural center, placement of historical markers, and production of a county history.

Action '76 and the Bicentennial effort got underway in the fall of 1973, after an organizational meeting between representatives of the chamber of commerce and the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. On the chamber's recommendation, Robert Fisk was named committee chairman in December. In the spring, he and the chamber appealed to the Commission for funding for an art and cultural center in Kissimmee, the county's largest town. The application was approved, and the county received \$15,000 in Commission matching funds for construction of the facility.

In May 1974, when Helen Thomas became co-chairwoman of Action '76, she and other Steering Committee members initiated historical projects that began to reach fruition by 1975. These included presentation of a historical drama, placement of historic markers, sponsorship of a county history, and development of a Bicentennial-related musical series for area schools.

When 1976 arrived, the county, through both Action '76 and various civic organizations, was already preparing for the Fourth of July. The countywide celebration, hosted by Kissimmee, lasted three days, from July 2 through Independence Day. Festivities included an arts and crafts exhibition, music, dancing, cultural events, exhibits at the county agricultural center, and a rodeo, all adding up to a fitting conclusion for the Bicentennial observance.

Palm Beach County

Population:	348,753
Chairman:	Clinton W. Effinger III (1973-75)
	Allen C. Clark (1975-77)
Vice Chairmen:	Robert R. Rose
	James Owens
	James L. Watt
	Marie Rey
	Emily Jackson
	Charles F. Ward
Secretary:	Marie Turnbull
Treasurer:	Marvin A. Mounts, Jr.
Administrative Grant:	\$12,180
Project Grants:	\$44,438

Unlike some counties where the Bicentennial observance centered in one or two cities, Palm Beach County staged a celebration marked by the active participation of virtually all of its thirty-seven communities. That celebration was initiated in early 1973, when Action '76 was organized under the chairmanship of Colonel Clinton Effinger III. Shortly thereafter, Boynton Beach, the town of Palm Beach, Delray Beach, and Lake Worth High School all established Bicentennial committees charged with developing local programs and coordinating them with the county steering committee.

At that point, Boynton Beach, possessing both a replica of the Liberty Bell and a Bicentennial park on U.S. Highway 1, had the most advanced program in the county. However, more towns, such as Pahokee, Riviera Beach, and Boca Raton, soon set up their own local committees, while other communities began to plan elaborate projects. Most notable among these was Lake Worth, whose plans included a playhouse, a boat ramp, a patriotic play, and a municipal history. Boca Raton's thirty-member steering committee adopted preservation of the old city hall and the Florida East Coast Railroad depot as its major activities.

By the end of 1974, many Palm Beach County Bicentennial committees had applied for Bicentennial Community status and were beginning to realize some of their projects. Both Lake Park and Boynton Beach planned large parades, while Lake Worth held a ceremony noting its designation as a Bicentennial Community that featured a concert, speakers, and dedication of a new bandshell and boat ramp. Boca Raton planned a cycledrome project, while South Bay decided to transform its central city traffic triangle into an eye-appealing park. Pahokee moved ahead on its Observation Tower project, while Tequesta built a new sports complex. In Delray Beach, most of the Bicentennial committee's attention was focused on producing an outdoor mural, while Riviera Beach concerned itself with constructing a waterfront park. At Port St. Lucie, the Bicentennial Committee sold American flags, sponsored a candlelight ball, and planned a "Bicentennial Garden in Perpetuity." Boynton Beach's twenty-member steering committee undertook production of a large outdoor mural, a special commemorative display, and a Bicentennial concert, in addition to its earlier projects. Area schools, such as Lake Worth and Belle Glade High Schools, came forth with colorful Bicentennial activities and programs. Lake Worth Junior High even produced its own Bicentennial newspaper, *Firecracker!*. School bands and service clubs all engaged in the celebrations, contributing to the Bicentennial euphoria within the county. Palm Beach Junior College established a Bicentennial committee that not only put on Robert E. Lee Day festivities in 1976, but also conducted a videotape oral history program. That program featured the "Flagler Story," a narrative of the advance of Henry Flagler's railroad from Jacksonville to Key West and its influence on the growth of the state.

Various civic clubs developed Bicentennial programs as well. For example, the Sunshine Democratic Club of Palm Beach County donated twenty-eight historical books to the Palm Beach County Library and gave active support to the Action '76 program.

While local Bicentennial programs burgeoned, Action '76, by the end of 1975, planned activities including a Flags of Florida program, a Seminole Sundance Festival, a bicycle path, and a concert hall project. Colonel Effinger was replaced in 1975 as chairman by Allen Clark, who brought new inspiration to the organization, while working closely with community Bicentennial committees. Action '76 assisted numerous groups in applying for grants from the Commission, resulting in state funding totalling \$44,438 for Palm Beach County Bicentennial projects. Projects receiving Commission matching grants included the American Wind Symphony in West Palm Beach and Boca Raton, the Jimmy Kitchens Cycledrome, which was a bicycle safety training course for children, restoration of the Old Oakley Theater, the Pahokee Observation Tower, purchase of equipment for a Lake Worth recreation center, a project of the Urban League for distribution of the *Negro Almanac* to area libraries, a history of Riviera Beach, South Bay's Bicentennial park, the Heritage Music Festival in West Palm Beach, and an addition to Belle Glade's Memorial Museum. One project, USA '76, was awarded \$10,000, but was later withdrawn.

By the spring of 1976, nearly all of thirty-seven communities were planning Fourth of July celebrations. For example, West Palm Beach planned two days of festivities, beginning with a July 3 kickoff ball and followed the next day by games, picnics, and a parade. Lake Worth held a parade and carnival in Bryant Park on July 3, complete with bands, food, and games. On July 4, there was a large fireworks display. Other communities supported similarly energetic celebrations, resulting in truly countywide festivities.

Pasco County

Population:	75,955
Chairman:	Ed Starling (1973-74) Clare A. Barnard (1974-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 3,375
Project Grants:	\$10,000

The Bicentennial effort in Pasco County began slowly, but, once it developed momentum, went on to produce a meaningful celebration of American independence. Following a meeting of prominent county citizens and representatives to the Bicentennial Commission in the fall of 1973 an Action '76 steering committee was organized.

The committee did not become truly active, however, until November 1974, when Clare Barnard became chairwoman. In February 1975, Action '76 applied for Bicentennial Community recognition, citing as county projects construction of a picnic shelter, improvement of the beach at City Marina, and beautification of the city of New Port Richey. Grant applications made to the Commission for a mobile library project in New Port Richey and the St. Louis Plaza project in San Antonio were each awarded \$5,000 grants. The fourteen-member steering committee also organized local Bicentennial committees in San Antonio, Zephyrhills, Dade City, New Port Richey, at Pasco-Hernando Community College (both east and west campuses), and in the Pasco County school system.

During the Bicentennial year, Pasco County contributed time and money to assist the Pasco County Special Olympics for the mentally handicapped and an all-county band concert. The community also hosted the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, welcomed the Bicentennial Wagon Train to the area, and

participated in the Highway of Flags Pageant, a march along U.S. Highway 41 from Miami to Indiana. The Boy Scouts, Lions Club and other community groups were active in this event. By the spring, plans were being made for elaborate Fourth of July celebrations. Each town sponsored its own festivities. In Dade City, Zephyrhills, Land-O-Lakes, New Port Richey, and San Antonio, there were prayer services, parades, picnics, games and contests, political speeches, and fireworks.

Pinellas County

Population:	522,329
Chairman:	A. P. Perez (1973-74) William F. O'Neill (1974-75) Charlotte Hubbard (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	Mark Wheeler
Heritage Chairman:	Aida Register
Treasurer:	Leonard Pucci
Executive Director:	Jackie Hutchison
Administrative Grant:	\$15,660
Project Grants:	\$59,980

In Pinellas County, there were active Bicentennial efforts at both the county and community levels, all culminating in massive Independence Day celebrations in 1976, as well as in numerous projects of enduring benefit to the citizenry.

After several meetings between county notables and N. E. "Bill" Miller, Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission, an Action '76 Steering Committee was established in March 1973. Mr. A. P. Perez served as the first chairman, although he was greatly assisted in his duties by Andy Hines. Later, when the Steering Committee had grown to twenty-five members, William O'Neill was named co-chairman and assumed numerous responsibilities within the organization. He became sole chairman when Perez resigned his office in September 1974.

That same year, Bicentennial fever erupted throughout the county as many communities developed their own programs. Special committees were organized in Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, and Seminole. Clearwater planned a rich array of festivals. The Greater Largo Chamber of Commerce showed interest in a commemorative program, as did Kenneth City. St. Petersburg applied to become an official Bicentennial Community and when it received that designation, it marked the occasion with the presentation of a Bicentennial flag.

Soon other cities, including Belleair, Seminole, Kenneth City, Clearwater, Oldsmar, Tarpon Springs, South Pasadena, Madeira Beach, Treasure Island, and Gulfport, requested designation as Bicentennial Communities, justifying their applications with multi-faceted programs. Seminole, for instance, listed as its Bicentennial projects an historical pageant and parade, programs for both Boy and Girl Scouts, and outdoor family social events. Clearwater's major activities, besides the Marine Science Center project, were a children's petting zoo and a sun and fun festival. Belleair planned acquisitions of land for recreation, an antiques exhibit, publication of a town history, lavish festivities for Independence Day in 1975, musical presentations in area schools, and fireplug painting. The twenty-member steering committee in Oldsmar listed an arts and crafts fair, tree planting, landscaping and renovation of public buildings, development of a public park, improvement of the bayfront park, and a bicycle tour of the town. In Tarpon Springs, arrangements were underway for an American Revolution historical pageant, an historical museum, establishment of a boys' club, a town history, and a city beautification program. South Pasadena intended to dedicate a new city hall, create a waterfront park, plant victory gardens, produce a city history, and sponsor the Freedom Train visit.

While these and other communities were busily organizing local projects, Pinellas County Action '76 expanded its own program to include an elaborate medallion project depicting the county's rich history, and greater participation of area high schools in the observance. Leadership of the steering committee changed hands again as Charlotte Hubbard became chairwoman in July 1975. Under her direction, Action '76 compiled an elaborate Bicentennial guidebook and made progress on its medallion program. Like other county steering committees, the Pinellas organization supervised applications to the state Commission for funding for various local projects. Under its aegis, county groups and government won grants for eight projects, including a marine science center and a performance of the American Wind Symphony in Clearwater; a Center for Black History and Culture in St. Petersburg and a history of that same city; a memorial walkway on Treasure Island; a recreation center in Oldsmar, a swimming pool in Dunedin, and a heritage park in Seminole planned by the county.

Besides the individual towns and cities, other county groups, including an organization of deaf persons, established Bicentennial programs in conjunction with Action '76.

When Independence Day 1976 arrived, there were celebrations in many Pinellas communities both large and small. They included a flag ceremony and band concert in Belleair; a multi-hull points regatta and fireworks in Dunedin; a fish-a-thon in Holiday Isles; and a children's patriotic show, parade, moustache contest, and burial of a time capsule in Largo. Clearwater sponsored dancing, music, a pancake eating contest, puppet show, teenage games, pop music festival, magic show, parade and, of course, fireworks, while Madeira Beach celebrated the Bicentennial with church services, a concert in tribute to America, baseball game, a parade, an early morning bike ride and rodeo, bicycle races, ice cream social, tennis tournament, street dance, community fair, aquatic events, pet parade, community wiener roast, arts and crafts show, Bicentennial ball, and fireworks. Oldsmar's Independence Day program included a father-son and mother-daughter baseball game, family basket picnic, arts and craft show, old fashioned ice cream social, street square dance, Bicentennial parade, and a Sunday musicale. St. Petersburg celebrated with the staging of races, reenactment of the Boston Tea Party, Bicentennial games, and fireworks display. St. Petersburg Beach's program included a field day, grand ball, and a huge fireworks display. The festival in Seminole consisted of a luncheon, followed by a band concert, awards presentations, and a speech by special guest Senator Lawton Chiles. Tarpon Springs' Independence Day celebration featured a parade, fish fry, games, refreshments, carnival booths, and fireworks. On Treasure Island the fete included a ball, with music by Denise Darcel and the Count Four Band, a hot air balloon flight, and fireworks on the beach. By the time the last sparklers sputtered out that night, it was clear that the Bicentennial had reached every corner of Pinellas County.

Polk County

Population:	227,222
Chairman:	Andrew P. Ireland (1973) Joe P. Ruthven (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Andrew R. Reilly
Secretary:	Dickwin D. Armstrong
Treasurer:	Joseph P. Tedder
Executive Director:	Bonnie Mitchell (1973) Bette Logan (1973-76) Nancye Thornberry (1976-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$ 7,945
Project Grants:	\$17,000

With a program highlighted by an old-fashioned touring medicine show, Polk County joined actively in the spirit of the Bicentennial observance. Participation in that observance began in January 1973, when Bicentennial Commission Executive Director Bill Miller persuaded Andrew Ireland to accept chairmanship of Action '76. Ireland organized a fifteen-member steering committee and undertook a publicity campaign for the group, but, in July, he resigned.

Mr. Joe Ruthven became the new chairman. Under his leadership, the Steering Committee grew to some seventy members, representing at least eleven cities and towns in the county as well as the county commission, the League of Municipalities, the Polk area chamber of commerce, and the school board.

Within months, not only Action '76 but also numerous community Bicentennial committees were developing projects and activities. Bartow, Fort Meade, and Lakeland requested Bicentennial Community status. Bartow planned to dedicate a Bicentennial park, a replica of Fort Blount with a permanent museum or library on the site, celebrate Paul Revere Day, sponsor historical essay contests and May Day observances in the schools, and hold Fourth of July picnics in 1975 and 1976. Fort Meade's program included completion of a historical area in the city's Bicentennial park, as well as church, civic, and art projects for Independence Day 1976.

In Lakeland, there were plans to host the 1975 convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society at the new civic center. Funding for that project was requested from the Commission, which responded with a \$5,000 grant. In addition, Lakeland intended to establish a Bicentennial park, obtain a sculpture to adorn the civic center complex, and assemble a gallery of pictures describing "old Lakeland." In Lake Wales, plans were afoot for restoration of the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad station and its conversion into a historical museum (a project assisted with Commission funds), an appropriate welcome for the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit, raising of the thirteen colonial flags, a patriotic concert, school projects such as a peripatetic school bus, contribution of historical books to a library, and a Bicentennial fashion show.



For its part, Action '76 sought a new home for the Polk County Historical Library, produced historical exhibits at the Florida Citrus Showcase and Public Museum, planned entertainment for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society convention, undertook restoration of a log cabin dating from 1882, and converted an old bus into a touring museum. The year 1975 marked the appearance of the Steering Committee's most ambitious and most popular project, the Polk County Touring Medicine Show, which cost \$130,000 to produce. Featuring an old-time medicine show with all the trappings, it visited many area communities and won praise as one of the best Bicentennial projects in the state.

Various publications helped spread the word about county Bicentennial activities. For example, Winter Haven produced a seventeen-page booklet listing its Bicentennial plans, projects, and activities. The school board included news of Bicentennial plans for the schools in its publications. And, during the height of the festivities in 1976, Action '76 issued *Liberty Lines*, a monthly newsletter.

Beginning with a grand kick-off for the Bicentennial Wagon Train in Polk City in January, 1976 was filled with festivities. Independence Day celebrations took place in many communities across the county. They included an old-fashioned picnic, games, joint church services, and fireworks in Bartow.

Auburndale hosted a four-day festival beginning on July 1, and featuring a fiddlers' convention, string bands, sack races, log chopping, a tennis tournament, gospel singing, and a patriotic songfest. In addition, the town buried a time capsule on the Fourth. Lakeland hosted a large Bicentennial parade on July 3. Winter Haven's Bicentennial Committee held a two-day celebration which included athletic events, dancing, music, a parade, and a stirring, patriotic ceremony. Polk County and Action '76 dedicated a court of revolutionary flags, with the current United States flag in the center on July 4.

Although Independence Day celebrations were the climax of the Bicentennial program in Polk County, other activities continued after this date. They included a marker dedication at the Starling Ranch, where the Wagon Train had originated, in September, and a Thanksgiving celebration featuring Pat Boone and a 300-voice choir attended by 7,200 people. The appearance of the American Freedom Train in the area in December rounded out a superlative Polk County Bicentennial observance.

Putnam County

Population:	36,290
Chairman:	Richard Westbury (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Ed Brooks
Secretary:	Lora Britt
Treasurer:	Duane A. Krause
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grant:	\$2,500

One of the first counties to prepare for the nation's Bicentennial observance, Putnam County established its Action '76 Steering Committee in the fall of 1972. Not until February 1973, however, was Dick Westbury selected as chairman. By April of that year Westbury and his ten-member Action '76 Committee were actively plotting a course for Putnam County's Bicentennial program. Mr. Westbury stressed above all the necessity of getting as many people in the county involved as possible.

Objectives discussed at an April 1973 meeting included identifying historical sites, development of an oral history program, beautification of parts of the St. Johns River located within the boundaries of the county, establishment of recreational facilities, and development of an ecology project. The Steering Committee's plans were publicized in local newspapers and by civic and social clubs and schools.

In August 1973, the committee completed one of its first major projects with dedication of the Lake Stella Bicentennial Park in Palatka, a project that gained the attention of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Development of a beach at Crescent City was also accomplished at this time. Following this event, Westbury continued to publicize and widen the scope of the Steering Committee's program. To aid the expanding activities, Action '76 opened an office in Palatka in March 1974.

By the fall of 1975, the program included the establishment of a blood bank, a children's library, new street signs for the county seat of Palatka and a veteran's memorial park. Four major festivals marked Action '76's 1976 program. They included Easter services, a countywide July 4 celebration, the Indian Summer-Fall Festival and a Christmas celebration with a Bicentennial theme. Putnam County's Independence Day celebration, with parades, chorus, games and contests, concluded Action '76's effective Bicentennial program.

St. Johns County

Population:	30,727
President:	Malcolm L. Stephens, Jr. (1973-77)
Vice President:	Philip E. Kinsey
Secretary:	Frankie C. Walker
Treasurer:	Edward N. Calhoun
Executive Director:	Ralph W. Cooper, Jr. (1973-77)
Assistant Director:	Daniel J. Canary
Administrative Grants:	\$ 2,500
	\$ 15,840
Project Grants:	\$150,918

Focusing its celebrations on St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States, St. Johns County produced a singularly effective Bicentennial observance. That observance was launched independently of the state Commission's Action '76 program when, in November 1972, St. Augustine's Committee for the National Bicentennial, Inc. (SACNB), was established under the direction of Malcolm Stephens, Jr., with membership including prominent local citizens as well as members of the Florida Legislature and actor Richard Boone. However, in February 1973, the committee accepted the Commission's offer to recognize it as the official Bicentennial agency for St. Johns County.

Among SACNB's first priorities was development of a thirteen-part master plan, budgeted originally at \$7,000,000 but later reduced, for a Bicentennial program stressing the unique, rich history of the area. Working out of offices in downtown St. Augustine, the committee applied for Commission grants for a geodesic dome feasibility study, renovation of the Teatro Menendez in the Alcazar Hotel, and an archaeological survey of Fort Musa, an early Spanish bastion. Other projects undertaken included plans for the reconstruction of several buildings dating from the British period (1763-1783) and work on a county Bicentennial trail. Eventually, these and other grant requests brought SACNB matching funds totalling over \$150,000 from the Commission and from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

As the committee's membership and activities expanded, new executive personnel were recruited, including Brigadier General Ralph W. Cooper, who became executive director in August 1973. General Cooper soon came to realize that the thirteen-point program was unrealistic and needed trimming. Mr. Stephens, on the other hand, maintained that his committee's \$7,000,000 program was in part aimed at providing improvements for St. Augustine "clear up to the year 2000." In the end, the budget and scope of the master plan was reduced to meet a more realistic schedule and cost.

In September, St. Augustine and Pensacola became the first two cities in Florida to receive Bicentennial Community recognition. That achievement inspired SACNB to solicit further ideas for the Bicentennial program from the residents of St. Johns County. In January 1974, when the county received its own designation as a Bicentennial Community, SACNB staged an impressive ceremony at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument to mark the occasion.

Numerous civic and religious groups in the area were busy developing their own projects and festivals, in cooperation with the SACNB organization. Such groups as the Greek Orthodox Church in St. Augustine, the President's Council of Garden Clubs, St. Augustine's Rotary Club, and the Altrusa Club sponsored projects including work on the King's Road, development of the Rotary Lighthouse Park on Anastasia Island, beautification and maintenance of a large lot adjacent to the Llambia House, restoration of the Avero House in the historic section of St. Augustine, a "cleanup, paint up, and beautification" of St. Augustine, and dedication of a bronze statue of the first Minorcan leaders and settlers in St. Augustine.

SACNB kept in close communication with all groups and greeted the many distinguished visitors to St. Augustine, whose significance was recognized by its inclusion in the National Master Reference of Bicentennial Activities published by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Fund raising projects conducted by SACNB featured such commemorative items as collectors bottles bearing the committee's logo as well as gold, silver, and bronze medallions. The bottles and medallions were produced exclusively by SACNB.

Bicentennial festivals and projects came faster as 1975 unfolded. Projects included location of portions of the 1768 King's Road, which stretched from St. Augustine south to New Smyrna and north to Georgia, employment and training of elderly low income persons for cleanup and beautification programs, a project to outfit many townspeople in Revolutionary period clothing, restoration and decoration of the public library's colonial rooms, construction of new book shelves in the public library commemorating the national Bicentennial, addition of a library section on black literature, and an oral history project for the area. In May 1975, St. Augustine's Bicentennial Committee held a large Memorial Day ceremony featuring a concert and speakers.

A ceremony in August 1975 involved the flying of the American flag over St. Augustine's National Cemetery twenty-four hours a day in honor of the town's selection as the site of one of ten national cemeteries in the United States. By autumn, the committee had distributed Bennington flags containing thirteen stars and stripes, to businesses in the area, providing they would fly the flag throughout the Bicentennial period.

By this time the area's schools were heavily involved in the Bicentennial program through the Bicentennial Youth Debates, concerts, participation in Christmas ceremonies with historical themes, and use of historical materials in the classrooms.

With the approach of 1976, St. Augustine found itself not only the site of almost daily Bicentennial-related festivals, but also host for numerous groups from other cities, states, and countries. For example, on April 1, the Naples High School Band was in St. Augustine. One week later, the city received crew members from the British aircraft carrier "Ark Royal." On April 11, the Jefferson County High School Band gave a special performance. Between April 12-17 the Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit appeared. On April 18 the city held an Easter parade and on April 21 the National Secretaries Association (International) held its Bicentennial year convention in St. Augustine. This hectic pace continued until July 4, 1976, with numerous groups visiting the nation's oldest city as part of the Bicentennial observance.

In the meantime, numerous historical projects reached fruition. Completed in addition to those already named were a Bicentennial mural, renovation of various buildings and meeting rooms, elaborate historical presentations in different schools, a Boy Scout historical trail, a Bicentennial band, Revolutionary era document exhibits, Bicentennial musicals, historical walking and driving guides of north Florida and St. Augustine, historical marker programs, and films with historical themes.

July 3 and Independence Day witnessed a large celebration in St. Augustine, including "Florida on Parade," a pageant with statewide participation on July 3. The next day a Boy Scout commemorative celebration took place, followed by St. Augustine's participation in a national bell ringing event. On the evening of July 4, a community worship service was held, followed by a fireworks display.

Under the leadership of Cooper, Stephens, and Dan Canary, assistant executive director of the Bicentennial program, St. Augustine staged a Bicentennial celebration which served as a paragon not only for Florida, but for all communities in the nation, commensurate with the historical importance of this ancient, romantic city.

St. Lucie County

Population:	50,836
Chairman:	James L. Middleton (1973-74) Trenton Ebner (1974-75) Ed Lounds (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	None

With Bicentennial Commission encouragement, a five-member Action '76 steering committee was organized in St. Lucie County in November 1973. However, under both James Middleton, the first chairman, and Trent Ebner, his successor, the committee remained relatively inactive, although it did, along with the sponsors of Fort Pierce's annual Sandy Shoes Festival, involve itself in that city's seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations in 1975.

In December 1975, Ed Lounds became the third chairman of Action '76. He and his committee, with active support from the county commission, the Jaycees, the county historical society, the Sandy Shoes Festival sponsors, and other groups in the community, developed a modest Bicentennial program for the area. Drama courses concentrating on county history were undertaken at Indian River Community College. Out of those courses grew the play "Along These Waters," which was partially funded out of administrative

funds from the state Commission. Independence Day 1976 was celebrated with festivities at the junior college and within the community. Activities included prayer services, picnics, games, horse rides, and fireworks.

Santa Rosa County

Population:	37,741
Chairman:	William S. Rosasco III (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Thomas W. Suther
Secretary/Treasurer:	Agnes P. Snyder
Administrative Grant:	\$2,500
Project Grants:	\$7,875

Short on population but long on imagination and energy, Santa Rosa County staged a spirited and productive Bicentennial program, which got underway in August 1973 with the appointment of William Rosasco III as chairman of the Action '76 Steering Committee. In October, at their first meeting, Rosasco and the sixteen committee members set as goals for the county Bicentennial effort restoration of the L & N railroad station and its conversion into a museum, sponsorship of a Bicentennial pageant, and involvement of the area's high schools in the anniversary program.

In January 1974, Action '76 sent county citizens questionnaires soliciting further ideas for the celebration. Suggestions poured in and soon the committee presented an extensive projects list including a marker for a tree next to which Andrew Jackson is believed to have camped, Bicentennial programs for half-times at high school football games, a freedom essay contest in the high schools, promotion of flag display projects, a history of Santa Rosa County, T-shirts bearing the official Bicentennial logo, plans for a large arts and crafts show in 1976 with a Bicentennial theme, a Santa Rosa County trail map providing an historical tour of the area, as well as the three earlier projects.

As 1975 got underway, Action '76 was busy promoting its program through radio spots, films in the schools, and celebration of the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of Milton, the county seat. Publicity and promotion paid off, as different groups in the county were soon conceiving their own Bicentennial projects and activities. For example, the volunteer firemen of Avalon Beach painted their community firehouse and meeting hall red, white, and blue, while the 4-H Club began work on a camp with a Bicentennial theme. At the same time, the high schools were engaged in a spirited freedom essay contest. In addition, two books came out of the Bicentennial effort. One publication, *Best of 200 years cookbook*, was compiled by the Pilot Club of Milton and published by the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Santa Rosa County. The other, *Born to Serve: A History of the Rosasco Family*, was written by Jane Richards.

As the Bicentennial year progressed, the Action '76 Steering Committee, now numbering more than fifty, worked energetically on many projects, continued to publicize its entire program widely, brought numerous civic and school groups into the effort, and prepared the Fourth of July celebration.



The Independence Day celebration was heralded on July 1, 1976, with a Bicentennial pageant depicting American colonial history. Civic groups each had one scene in the program; accompanying music was furnished by high school bands and choruses. On July 2, the county witnessed a parade featuring military bands, baton marching units, high school bands, floats, and equestrians. On July 3, festivities were highlighted by rides along the Whiting Field Railroad Line with scenic attractions noted, a sidewalk sale, L & N railroad depot activities, an historical art show, sports events, fireworks, and the Aqua Jesters Ball sponsored by the Jaycees. July 4 events included religious observances and evening religious services at the Milton High School Stadium and a bell ringing ceremony on the courthouse lawn, accompanied by sirens and bells in other parts of the county, at 2:00 P.M. Activities on July 5 featured food, fun, and games, including exhibits, booths, awards, a watermelon eating contest, sack races, a greased pig contest, a pie eating contest, greased pole climbing, and a bathtub race. The Independence Day celebration, like the remainder of Santa Rosa's program, was superbly organized by Chairman Rosasco and his committee.

Sarasota County

Population:	120,413
Chairman:	J. Leighton Cornwell (1973-75) John J. Detterick (1975-77)
Vice Chairman:	Donald F. O'Connell
Treasurer/Executive	
Director:	William C. McFarland
Administrative Grant:	\$ 4,800
Project Grants:	\$30,000

In the spring of 1973, the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners initiated the county Bicentennial program with its appointment of J. Leighton "Count" Cornwell as director of the Action '76 Steering Committee. Count Cornwell organized a steering committee with representatives from Venice, Sarasota, and North Port Charlotte, as well as from civic groups and schools. The chairman was able to get good publicity for his group's activities at the outset of the program.

Cornwell, an American history enthusiast, sought to involve county schools in an historical approach to the Bicentennial. The Board of County Commissioners helped promote the idea through purchase of Liberty Bell replicas for winners of an American history essay contest.

In the summer of 1973, Action '76 applied for Bicentennial Community status, listing as projects a proposed county history, a program to involve all facets of the county in the Bicentennial, and sponsorship of essay contests in American history.

In 1974, the twenty-six-member Steering Committee received a donation to erect a 400 square foot sign with a Bicentennial theme at the northern entrance to the City of Venice. It instituted a Bicentennial speakers group to provide lectures on American history and show the film "Declaration of Interdependence" in the area's ten schools. In October the committee launched a "Know Your Presidents" fund raising project, which included information and silhouettes on oval coins of American presidents which it planned to sell. To further publicize the celebration, an area radio station featured two-minute Bicentennial clips on Sarasota history. In early 1975 the Ringling Brothers Circus, whose winter home is in Sarasota County, unveiled a special Bicentennial edition of the "Greatest Show On Earth."

Count Cornwell resigned in May 1975 and was replaced by John Detterick, who ably continued his programs. Mr. Detterick announced in June 1975 a grant application for a history of agriculture in Sarasota County, Action '76's involvement with a fair exhibit, and a Bicentennial concert band program. In the meantime, earlier grant requests were receiving funding. In 1975 and 1976, the county was awarded Bicentennial Commission funds for the restoration of the Alfred Bidwell-Luke Wood House, the oldest structure in the county, a veterans memorial park in Venice, Pan American horizons at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota and the development of a Sarasota County historical and natural science center.

The Bicentennial year was notable for the progress of several Action '76 and other affiliated groups' projects. Prominent among them were a history of Sarasota County, Bicentennial school projects, creation of a railroad museum, patriotic plays by the Daughters of the American Revolution, a Phi Beta Kappa American history project involving presentation of presidential biographies to school libraries, a Sarasota public school "Flags for American History Classes" project, and providing history slides for county schools.

Independence Day celebrations occurred in several communities in Sarasota County. Longboat Key staged a three-day program featuring a parade, picnic, and speakers. Venice dedicated its Veterans Memorial Park and Sarasota fashioned a lavish celebration on its bayfront.

Sarasota County's observance of America's birthday was characterized by fine leadership, enthusiasm, broad community involvement, and noteworthy historical projects.

Seminole County

Population:	140,000
Chairman:	Thomas S. McDonald (1973-74) John C. "Jack" Horner (1974-77)
Secretary:	Peggy J. Horner
Treasurer:	John Y. Mercer
Coordinator:	Ernest R. Horrell
Administrative Grant:	\$ 3,535
Project Grants:	\$27,200

In March 1975, Seminole County's Action '76 Committee was organized and divided into two groups: functional groups conducted historical, religious, and recreational activities, while community groups planned area events. The communities included Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Winter Springs, Oviedo and Geneva. Each community formed a Bicentennial subcommittee and designated its representative on the county Steering Committee, which reviewed and approved proposed projects. The entire committee consisted of 129 members who were directly involved in Bicentennial projects or programs on a countywide basis.

The Seminole County committee organization was only partially successful. The functional committees failed to operate as originally conceived and were not specifically credited with any successful projects. The community subcommittees were very active, however. Each of the eight communities obtained national recognition from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration as a Bicentennial Community by meeting the requirements of broad based support from citizens and having at least one project in each of the three designated theme areas.

Participation by the Seminole County school system in the Bicentennial program proved very successful. Projects included historical plays written and directed by students and faculty, murals, arts and crafts shows, landscaping projects and historical research. The Lake Brantley High School Patriot Band represented the State of Florida at the annual Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in Washington, D. C. Mr. Michael R. Buchanan of Oviedo High School was the winner of the Southeast Regional Youth Bicentennial Debates conducted by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each school that participated in Seminole County's program was designated a Seminole County Bicentennial School Community. A total of thirty-one public and private schools achieved that status.

State Commission grant assistance aided development of six separate projects in the county, including construction of an ecological study center, a study for a historical district in Sanford, and improvements to the historic Bradlee-McIntyre House in Longwood, which is on the Florida Bicentennial Trail. Sanford's black community joined the celebration by sponsoring a full week of activities devoted to the history of blacks in America.

There were numerous special Bicentennial projects endorsed and sponsored by the Action '76 Committee. The significant ones were beautification of 1.8 miles of the Sea Wall Strip on Lake Monroe at Sanford, a project co-sponsored by the Sanford Women's Club and Junior Women's Club; renovation of a community building and construction of a community park in Winter Springs; research and writing of a political and economic history of Oviedo, sponsored by the Oviedo Historical Society; and publication of a manuscript report written in 1822 by Captain John Etton Le Conte, United States Army, an early explorer of the St. Johns River Valley.

Besides the usual spontaneous celebrations and patriotic demonstrations, Action '76 organized a Fourth of July exhibits and fireworks display at Fort Mellon Park in Sanford. An estimated 20,000-25,000 people crowded in and around the park to observe the twilight fireworks.

Sumter County

Population:	14,839
Chairman:	James N. Etheredge (1974-75) Mary Caruthers (1976-77)
Vice Chairman:	Royce Locke
Secretary/Treasurer:	Nellie Lee
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	None

The Sumter County Action '76 Steering Committee began operations in the spring of 1974 when James Etheredge, a member of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce and a resident of Bushnell, was appointed chairman of the fledgling organization. The first organizational meeting was held in July 1974. No specific projects were developed in the ensuing months. Mr. Etheredge resigned in December 1975.

In February 1976, Mrs. Mary Caruthers was selected as the Steering Committee chairwoman. Mrs. Caruthers quickly held an organizational meeting, attended by a representative of the Bicentennial Commission and fifty county residents. Reorganization of the Steering Committee was the first order of business. When that initial task was successfully completed, the new committee embarked on a "crash program." Most important for Action '76 was the disposition of twenty acres of fairground property donated for a Bicentennial project, resulting in a decision by Action '76 to restore and move one of the oldest homes in the county to the site, a project in keeping with the theme of "Heritage '76."

Action '76 also planned an Independence Day celebration. The festival included a program in Webster depicting the nation's birth; an old-fashioned picnic at Oxford; and in Wildwood, a fish fry, art show, patriotic gospel, country music presentations, flea market, block dance, high school band concert, presentation of a historical sketch, and a display of historical items dating from the Revolutionary War.

But the Action '76 Steering Committee was not yet through with its Bicentennial celebration. In November 1976, the committee and the Sumter County Fair Association sponsored a fall festival with a Bicentennial motif. At a restored house on the fairgrounds, situated on acreage donated to the Bicentennial program, a grist and cane mill were set up in working order, and syrup making, taffy pulling and numerous crafts and games common to colonial America exhibited. Restoration of the house and the events surrounding it were the major achievements of Action '76 and the Sumter County Fair Association. The house will remain as a local mini-museum of nineteenth century Floridiana.

Suwannee County

Population:	15,559
Chairman:	Art Keeler, Jr. (1974-75) Larry Snider (1975-76)
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grant:	\$5,000

Suwannee County staged a modest but spirited Bicentennial program centering on numerous special events. Action '76 got underway in April 1974, after Art Keeler, Jr. agreed to head the Bicentennial program. Mr. Keeler and his small steering committee moved quickly to raise funds by selling membership cards, hosting a booth at the county fair, and selling a bimonthly newspaper, *Suwannee Heritage*, containing historical information about the county, as well as news of the Bicentennial.

The year 1975 saw both advances and setbacks for Action '76, as the committee moved into an office lent by the First Federal Savings and Loan Institution of Live Oak, and, shortly thereafter, lost its chairman when Keeler resigned. Only in November did Larry Snider replace him.

Mr. Snider assumed his duties at a busy time for Action '76, which was deeply involved in an extensive program that had been outlined in September when the committee applied for Bicentennial Community status for the county. Its projects list included a Pioneer Days Fourth of July celebration; a countywide American Bicentennial Forum; the Suwannee Heritage Bicentennial Collection of twelve pen and ink drawings depicting the county history; the Suwannee Heritage celebration, a week-long celebration of the county's past; Action '76 participation in the annual Suwannee County Fair; Bicentennial fire plug painting in Live Oak; one-minute radio spots on area history; an early voter registration program; and a booth at the county fair providing information on Bicentennial activities.

As the Bicentennial year progressed, Suwannee County prepared for an ambitious birthday celebration. Bleachers were built at the Rodeo Arena in Live Oak with partial funding from a Commission grant. Suwannee Countians also extended a warm welcome to the Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit.

The birthday festivities, held July 3 and 4, were marked by numerous events, abundant food, and ample enthusiasm. Celebrations featured a parade, singing, a costume contest, games and other competitions such as pie eating and beard growing, and an exciting rodeo. On Independence Day itself, citizens could attend church services, more rodeo events, and a fireworks display.



Taylor County

Population:	13,641
Chairman:	James W. Southerland (1973-75) Evelyn Williams (1975-77)
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grants:	None

Sparsely populated Taylor County's Bicentennial program officially began in October 1973, when Jim Southerland of Perry was appointed chairman of Action '76. The Steering Committee remained relatively inactive until December 1975, when Mrs. Evelyn Williams assumed the chairmanship that Southerland had vacated the previous February. Under Mrs. Williams' leadership, the committee developed Bicentennial plans that included publication of a history of Taylor County, presentation of a play depicting that same story, and sponsorship of an Independence Day picnic. Action '76 did not request Commission funding for any of these projects, but it did use surplus administrative grant monies to finance Florida Forest Study Center exhibits on forestry and the Historical Association's Bicentennial exhibits.

Fourth of July celebrations in 1976 centered around presentation by Florida State University graduate students of a play outlining the history of Taylor County. In addition, there were games, prizes, and food concessions at the Florida Forest Festival Park and Hall in Perry.

Union County

Population:	8,112
Chairman:	William J. Cowen (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Garnet L. Dukes
Secretary/Treasurer:	Margie Cason
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grants:	\$2,500

Union County initiated its Bicentennial observance in the fall of 1973, following preliminary meetings involving Robert Driggers, Will Cowens, and representatives of the state Bicentennial Commission. An Action '76 Steering Committee was established.

From the beginning, the Women's Club of Union County gave active support to the Bicentennial program. Not only did the club lead the drive for restoration of the old Union County Courthouse, but it also undertook compilation and publication of a pictorial album of Union County people and places. In the meantime, the Steering Committee began work on a recreational park in Lake Butler.

Most Bicentennial activities were concentrated during 1976. In February, a parade heralded the arrival of the Bicentennial Wagon Train. The local newspaper initiated weekly columns announcing special events. At about the same time there was a campaign to have residents fly American flags at their homes and businesses on national holidays throughout the year. Action '76 urged property owners to plant trees and shrubbery, paint buildings and clean up their premises in order to improve the general appearance of the county.

The climax of the Bicentennial celebration in Union County took place between July 2-10 when former ministerial residents were invited to return and participate in countywide religious services sponsored in conjunction with Action '76 by the Union County Pastors' Group. On July 3, an old fashioned picnic in the park with speakers, games, music, and exhibits featuring "yesteryear" activities took place. This event occurred in Lake Butler and was sponsored by the Bicentennial Steering Committee.



Volusia County

Population:	169,487
Chairman:	Herbert M. "Tippen" Davidson (1973-74) William R. Gomon (1974-77)
Chairman, Festival USA:	George C. Fogle, Jr.
Chairman, Horizons '76:	Drew Murphey
Chairman, Heritage '76:	Louise Benson
Treasurer:	Charles Lester
Executive Director:	Margaret Laughton
Administrative Grant:	\$ 6,760
Project Grants:	\$17,292

The Volusia County Bicentennial program was guided by a well organized committee that worked closely with numerous municipal committees. The Action '76 Committee was formed in early 1973 by a group of Halifax area residents headed by Herbert M. "Tippen" Davidson of the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* and William Gomon, a local architect. Mr. Gomon served as committee chairman to the conclusion of the observance, while Margaret L. Laughton was executive director. As respective chairmen for heritage, festival, and horizons, Mrs. Louise Benson, retired Brigadier General George Fogel, and Drew Murphy took charge of projects related to the three national themes.

The Steering Committee and numerous communities developed a myriad of projects. They initiated a campaign against pollution, created signs designating bicycle trails, a Bicentennial calendar of events, program emphasizing American history in the schools, historical marker program, restoration of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, registration of all qualified voters prior to 1976, a Bicentennial park, countywide beautification and cleanup, publication of histories of numerous communities in the county and construction of a new museum for the Halifax Historical Society.



Other successful projects included reprinting the area's first newspaper, publication of Bicentennial newsletters, the Bartram Canoe Expedition, campaigns to prevent alterations to the historic John D. Stetson home in Deland, and preserve the area's oldest school, provision of historical tapes for the blind and physically handicapped, restoration of neglected gardens, park areas and old structures, such as boathouses, painting of fireplugs, mailboxes, traveling exhibits, fairs, exhibitions, and Bicentennial Youth Debates.

In recognition of this ambitious and successful program, Bicentennial community status was accorded the county and several communities within it. Not to be outdone were other community institutions such as Daytona Beach Community College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, which presented elaborate Bicentennial programs of their own.

With many of its horizon and heritage projects completed by 1976, Volusia County turned its attention increasingly to the third Bicentennial theme--festival. The events which came within this category were varied. "Hands Across the Border," a 200-unit motorcade from Canada planned to spend the winter of 1976 in Daytona Beach and hold concerts on the beach; Daytona Beach Community College staged a Bicentennial colonial banquet; a fife and drum corps performed periodically in Ormond Beach, a band performed at Bicentennial events in Holly Hill, a town crier project to promote publicity of the Bicentennial operated throughout South Daytona, and the Art Leagues sponsored a Bicentennial fireplug painting contest. New Smyrna Beach received a new flagpole, while various communities held such festivals as beauty pageants, an archery contest, colonial ball and commemorative ceremonies on patriotic holidays.

The most important festivals occurred during Independence Day 1976 weekend. They featured numerous patriotic events, including the impressive naturalization program in Deland, parade, and fireworks. Sponsored by the Allied Boat Clubs of the Halifax area were yachting events, nautical flag raising, boat parades, cannon salutes, and a sailing regatta. In Daytona Beach there were prayer services and

a barbecue, while Edgewater enjoyed a colonial carnival, ice cream social, and craft, quilt, and weaving demonstrations.

Holly Hill held a dual Bicentennial and diamond jubilee celebration, while Pierson hosted the Fern Festival as it commemorated its fifteenth anniversary. Lake Helen had an Old Fashioned Day featuring a picnic and displays of historical items, home crafts, fireplugs painted in patriotic colors, and a parade. New Smyrna Beach honored descendents of the area's original Minorcan settlers, dedicated the Memorial Stadium, and, like other communities, celebrated with parades, carnivals, a seaside fiesta, and a picnic. Ormond Beach was busy with its drum and fife corps and joined Daytona Beach in numerous activities and celebrations. The Volusia County Action '76 Bicentennial Shop in Daytona Beach offered Bicentennial items for sale and was filled with colorful exhibits as well as room reproductions of an apothecary, dry goods and mercantile store, blacksmith shop, old saloon and village inn.

The United States Armed Forces Command Band from Fort Meade, Maryland, put on a splendid band concert, while the United States Army Command Band from Fort McPherson, Georgia, played to an audience of 4,000 at the bandshell in Daytona Beach. Deltona sponsored a gay nineties and antique car parade and a Bicentennial Village.

Notable for its breadth, and high number of tangible projects, Volusia County's Bicentennial program improved the quality of life for its residents. Its success and the durability of its programs will remain as a legacy to the Bicentennial in the next one hundred years.

Wakulla County

Population:	6,308
Chairwoman:	Ella Jean Wehunt (1974-77)
Vice Chairman:	A. L. Porter
Treasurer:	Oscar M. Crays
Administrative Grant:	\$ 500
Project Grant:	\$10,000

Wakulla County presented an active Bicentennial program in terms of community participation, celebrations, and historical projects.

An Action '76 Steering Committee was established in the summer of 1974, following an organizational meeting with a representative of the state Bicentennial Commission. The new chairwoman, Mrs. Ella Jean Wehunt, went to work immediately, and within a short time, her committee had formulated its basic objectives, which included restoration of the old county courthouse and its conversion into a county library and museum, publication of a county history, and creation of a county flag and logo. The committee later sought and received a Commission grant of \$10,000 toward the courthouse restoration project. It also participated in placing a historical marker in a cemetery at the site of the old seaport town of Magnolia.

Activities multiplied in 1975. Ninth-grader Jenny Smith won the local Bicentennial Logo Contest, and plans were made to display the symbol on oyster shells, T-shirts, letterheads, and window stickers. Action '76 applied for and received designation of Wakulla County as a Bicentennial Community. Other local communities also joined in the observance. Sopchoppy, with assistance from Action '76 and various civic groups, hosted a Fourth of July festival that attracted over 4,000 people. Panacea planned a Blue Crab Festival on Labor Day Weekend, and St. Marks prepared for a fiesta the following February. By the end of the year, the Steering Committee had grown to thirty-three and expanded its program to include a Johnny Horizon cleanup, fireplug painting, and school Bicentennial plays, as well as the earlier projects.

In 1976, Action '76 accomplished most of its program objectives and crowned its Bicentennial effort with countywide Independence weekend festivities. The celebration began in Sopchoppy on July 3 with a marathon parade, followed by the appearance of Representative Don Fuqua, an exhibition by the Florida State Flying High Circus, a sky diving program, band performances of all kinds, square dancing, and a colorful volley of fireworks. On July 4 there was a bell ringing at 2:00 p.m., followed by the dedication of the newly restored courthouse with patriotic speeches from local dignitaries.

On the basis of its Bicentennial program, Wakulla County exemplified how a rural community with patriotism, energy, and organization could involve its residents in a meaningful and valuable observance.

“To be an American is of itself almost a moral condition, and education, and a career.”

George Santayana

Walton County

Population:	16,087
Chairman:	John E. Creel (1973-77)
Vice Chairman:	Ed Kneller
Secretary:	Hazel Daughette
Treasurer:	Ruby Burton
Executive Secretary:	Peggy Scott
Administrative Grant:	\$ 1,500
Project Grants:	\$18,611

Walton County's Bicentennial efforts were marked by festivities centered on the Chautauqua Auditorium in DeFuniak Springs.

The county Action '76 Committee was organized in August 1973 through the efforts of civic leaders of DeFuniak Springs and representatives of the state Bicentennial Commission. With John Creel as chairman, the thirteen-member Steering Committee soon established subcommittees to handle individual projects. It also began a search for funding for two of its major projects: restoration of the 17,000-square foot Chautauqua Auditorium and completion of the South Walton Community and Emergency Service Center in Santa Rosa Beach. Eventually more than \$17,000 in Commission grants were awarded for these two sites. A subsequent project for the Flowersview Community located in the northwest portion of Walton County, and Emergency Center, received a Commission grant of \$1,500.

During 1974, the committee concentrated its energies on the Chautauqua restoration project, for which it obtained federal funding from the Department of Interior. It also expanded its activities to include the Chapel Hill project, which called for construction of tennis courts and other recreational facilities, and a tree planting project along the median of Highway 31, which ultimately failed to materialize.

Work on long-range projects continued the next year, which also witnessed the first Bicentennial festivals in the county. In September, Hurricane Eloise damaged the fragile Chautauqua structure, slowing progress on that project.

The climax of Walton County's Bicentennial observance occurred with an Independence Day celebration in 1976. Between 8,000 and 10,000 people enjoyed entertainment and visited booths set up around the DeFuniak Springs lake. Other activities included religious services, a parade, dancing, a speech by Congressman Robert Sikes, comedy skits, a V.I.P. reception and costume party, and, naturally, fireworks. Even after July 4 had passed, Walton County staged several Bicentennial events, including burial of a time capsule.

Washington County

Population:	11,453
Chairwoman:	Tully Bridenback (1974-77)
Co-Chairwoman/Treasurer:	Evalyn Sapp
Secretary:	Martha Nebel
Administrative Grant:	\$1,500
Project Grant:	\$2,500

Washington County began plans for the Bicentennial in September 1974 after Tully Bridenback and Evalyn Sapp met with a representative from the Bicentennial Commission. Shortly thereafter, Bridenback became chairwoman for Washington County's Action '76, pledging that "everyone will be encouraged to participate in projects that honor our past and prepare for the future."

By early spring, Washington County had prepared an ambitious "proposed projects" list, including restoration and furnishing of the old Greenberry Bush Estate in Falling Waters Park, raising and restoration of Miller's Ferry, placing Moss Hill Church on the Bicentennial Trail, organization of a patriotic song group, and attiring Washington County citizens in eighteenth and nineteenth century outfits on special occasions. Other proposals included a watermelon festival, an Independence Day parade, games, contests, picnics, a fish fry, a fiddling contest, and a community songfest. In addition, the Bicentennial theme would pervade the county fair and the New Year's Eve Ball.

A song group, "Young American Dream," singing 200 years of American music, emerged in Washington County. This group toured Florida with stops at Disney World and the Tallahassee Mall. Washington County also successfully applied for Bicentennial Community status.

In 1976 the committee gained additional support from members of the community, who at first had been reluctant to participate in the Bicentennial program. Among later accomplishments were Curt Bridenback's selection as a finalist in Jack Anderson's American Slogan Contest and a splendid July 4 celebration that featured games, contests, singing, picnics, and prayer services.

Grants Awarded by the Commission

From 1972 through 1977 the Bicentennial Commission of Florida issued more than \$3.5 million in grants to county Action '76 committees and local organizations involved in Bicentennial projects. Grant recipients were required to match the state award with an equal amount of cash and in-kind services. The Commission awarded each Action '76 committee an administrative grant proportional to the county's population to support organizational activities. The bulk of funds was allocated to assist more than 250 specific projects. The grants provided an incentive to Action '76 committees and other Bicentennial organizations to participate in the celebration and to initiate projects designed to fulfill the Commission's objective of improving life in Florida's communities and creating lasting Bicentennial memorials.

Funds to support the grant program came in part from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, whose sources consisted of appropriated monies and unappropriated earnings from royalties. State of Florida funds, derived primarily from pari-mutuel benefit performances, provided most of the revenue.

The following pages describe the major grants awarded by the State Commission. The list does not include many projects that Action '76 committees supported with administrative funds. Moreover, the projects described below represent but a small percentage of the total number of projects and activities undertaken by Bicentennial organizations.

Alachua County

Little One-Room Schoolhouse, Gainesville (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$6,000
Commission Grant	\$3,000

As its Bicentennial program the Gainesville Chapter of the Future Farmers of America converted a one-room schoolhouse into a museum for local school children. The building, which dates back to the 1880's, was furnished with authentic antique schoolroom fixtures. The Alachua County School Board provided matching funds.

Morningside Nature Center, Gainesville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$40,000
Commission Grant	\$10,000

The project consists of a nature preserve and environmental education center located on a ten-acre site that is open to the public. State funds were used to construct a residence on the museum grounds for the naturalist who develops the center's educational curriculum for elementary classes.

Hotel Thomas Feasibility Study, Gainesville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$30,000
Commission Grant	\$15,000 (federal funds)

The study examined the physical and economic components of reconstructing a landmark hotel in Gainesville. The Alachua County Action '76 Committee sponsored the study, which resulted in acquisition of the hotel by the City of Gainesville and the eventual securing of a 1.2 million dollar federal grant to complete the project. The renovated hotel will serve as a museum, cultural center, and public meeting hall.

Baker County

County History (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$4,000
Commission Grant	\$1,500

The grant supported writing and publication of a history of Baker County. The 250-page narrative was written by Gene Barber, a local artist and historian, and published by the Sun Printing Company in Callahan

Bay County

Bicentennial Heritage Library, Panama City (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$12,800
Commission Grant	\$ 3,400

State funds supported purchase of equipment and supplies for the library, which serves a six-county region. The project emphasized acquisition of materials relating to state and local history.

American Wind Symphony, Panama City (1975-76)

Total Cost \$7,500
Commission Grant \$3,750 (federal funds)

In conjunction with the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, the Panama City Music Association, the Panama City Commission, and the Bay County Commission, the Bay County Action '76 Committee sponsored a local performance of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. The performance provided educational opportunities for children and cultural benefits for all residents.

Pioneer Farm Complex, Panama City Junior Museum (1974-75)

Total Cost \$41,200
Commission Grant \$20,600 (federal funds)

The grant supported development and construction of a pioneer exhibit that includes buildings and artifacts relating to the early settlement of Florida.

Bradford County

Courthouse Restoration, Starke (1975-76)

Total Cost \$40,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,500

Constructed in 1902 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the old Bradford County Courthouse is a striking example of Victorian architecture. The County Action '76 Committee and county commission joined in the effort to restore the building for use as a county museum, art center, and meeting place.

Brevard County

Brevard County Bicentennial Monument, Cocoa Beach (1977-78)

Total Cost \$8,332
Commission Grant \$ 850

A monument honoring those who contributed to the success of the county Bicentennial observance was erected by the Brevard County Bicentennial Committee on land donated by the City of Cocoa Beach.

Big Brothers of Brevard, Cocoa Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$28,100
Commission Grant \$ 2,000

The grant subsidized the Big Brothers' program, which provides on an individual basis adult volunteers to assist in raising children who are missing one parent.

Erna Nixon Park, West Melbourne (1975-76)

Total Cost \$100,000
Commission Grant \$ 17,500

The state grant assisted park development of an environmentally unique hammock. The park, which includes nature trails, classrooms, a laboratory, exhibit areas, and other facilities, is designed to serve students, the handicapped, and the general public.

Sanctuary for Injured Wildlife, Melbourne (1974-75)

Total Cost \$33,300
Commission Grant \$15,000 (federal funds)

Located on a three and one-half acre site, the Florida Wildlife Sanctuary provides care for injured wildlife, conducts research on wildlife diseases, and gives environmental lectures to interested groups. The grant helps fund an expanded educational program and continued operation of the sanctuary.

Safety Town, Titusville (1974-75)

Total Cost \$2,500
Commission Grant \$1,250

Under the National Safety Town Center program, a local Safety Town was established to provide young children education on safety at home, in school, and in other daily activities.

Hacienda Girls Ranch Program, Titusville (1973-74)

Total Cost \$15,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,500 (federal funds)

The Commission grant helped finance expansion of the facilities of the Hacienda Girls Ranch, allowing accommodation of more girls.

Broward County

Historical House and Museum, Oakland Park (1976-77)

Total Cost \$20,000
Commission Grant \$ 2,500

Through a joint effort of the Bicentennial Committee of Oakland Park and the local historical society, a frame building was moved to a site donated by the city, and renovated to serve as a historical museum and meeting place for town residents.

Artists in Residency Program, Fort Lauderdale (1976-77)

Total Cost \$19,838
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

State funds provided the equipment necessary for a series of craft workshops sponsored by the Junior League of Fort Lauderdale. The workshops were taught by qualified artists in exchange for studio space in the restored New River Inn, and were open to school children and the public.

Self-Guided Tours, Fort Lauderdale (1976-77)

Total Cost \$5,700
Commission Grant \$2,850

The project provided signs and multi-language brochures for self-guided car and boat tours of Fort Lauderdale's historic landmarks and scenic areas.

Gazebo, Coconut Creek (1976-77)

Total Cost \$7,000
Commission Grant \$3,000

The gazebo, designed as the focal point for civic functions, was built with volunteer labor, all funds being spent for construction materials. Concrete benches and a public address system were also installed.

Inventory, Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale (1976-77)

Total Cost \$18,819
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The state grant was used to procure preservation supplies, equipment, and trained personnel to preserve for use and display archival materials collected over the past ten years by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

Pembroke Pines Bicentennial Park, North Fort Lauderdale (1976-77)

Total Cost \$2,800
Commission Grant \$1,400

The grant funds purchased shrubbery for the renovation and beautification of a local park, a project undertaken by the North Fort Lauderdale Bicentennial Committee as part of its commemorative effort.

Restoration of Old Schoolhouse, Deerfield Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$8,000
Commission Grant \$4,000

Already recognized as a state historic site, Deerfield Beach's original schoolhouse, dating from the 1920s, was restored by the City of Deerfield Beach, the local historical society, and the Bicentennial Committee. The interior of the building contains a 1920s schoolroom, museum displays, and meeting areas.

Bicentennial Park, North Lauderdale (1975-76)

Total Cost \$20,000
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The grant enabled completion of the community's first park. An open pavilion, picnic tables, barbeque pits, and simulated gas light lanterns were placed on the site.

Memorial Exhibition, Hollywood (1975-76)

Total Cost \$13,000
Commission Grant \$ 1,000

Commission funds provided alterations, equipment, literature, and display facilities for the Greater Hollywood Bicentennial Task Force's commemorative display on American transportation and migration. The exhibit is to be housed in the Pavilion, a new art and cultural center.

Town Meeting Project, Fort Lauderdale (1975-76)**Total Cost** \$50,000**Commission Grant** \$20,000

Broward Community College sponsored a Bicentennial road show that visited every community in the county for one week during 1976. The weeklong activities were designed to encourage citizen involvement in community improvement programs.

Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (1973-74)**Total Cost** \$3,000**Commission Grant** \$1,500 (federal funds)

The grant helped finance the New River Center Feasibility Study. Based on this study, development of a major complex, including a library, museum, a crafts and science center, and a retail complex, was initiated.

Charlotte County**Flagpole Construction, Rotonda-West (1975-76)****Total Cost** \$1,800**Commission Grant** \$ 300

After a timely suggestion from the local women's club, the Rotonda-West Bicentennial Committee sponsored construction of a flagpole in a well traveled part of town. The project fulfilled a long-standing commitment to erect an appropriate memorial to Americans who died in battle.

Citrus County**Bicentennial Youth Complex, Crystal River (1975-76)****Total Cost** \$39,000**Commission Grant** \$ 2,500

The county commission and Crystal River Youth Sports cooperated in the construction of a baseball complex. State funds helped to defray part of the total cost of the facility, which provides recreational benefits for the six communities around Crystal River.

Clay County**County History (1975-76)****Total Cost** \$5,000**Commission Grant** \$2,500

The Clay County Bicentennial Steering Committee and the Clay County Historical Society jointly sponsored the writing of a county history. Arch Fredric Blakey, an associate professor of history and social sciences at the University of Florida, performed the work. The manuscript was published by the Clay County Bicentennial Steering Committee in 1976. All profits from *Parade of Memories: A History of Clay County, Florida* will be used to support the Clay County Historical Museum.

History Museum, Green Cove Springs (1975-76)**Total Cost** \$6,000**Commission Grant** \$3,000

The state grant helped the Clay County Historical Society to start a local history museum. Located in the old county courthouse, the facility will feature exhibits devoted to various aspects of county history and later will involve a program of educational outreach for all ages.

Collier County**Immokalee Community Center (1974-75)****Total Cost** \$2,500**Commission Grant** \$1,250

An air-conditioning system was installed in the only community meeting place available to the 5,000 residents of Immokalee, an unincorporated community. The lack of air-conditioning discouraged meetings during hot and humid weather. The local chamber of commerce provided matching funds.

History Book Program, Naples (1974-75)**Total Cost** \$1,200

Commission Grant \$ 600

The Collier County Action '76 Committee distributed to public and private schools and public libraries throughout the county a two-volume *Bicentennial Illustrated History of the United States*. Grant funds purchased the books.

Big Cypress Nature Center, Naples (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,600

Commission Grant \$ 800

The center provides nature and conservation instructions to Collier County residents. Grant funds, matched by donations the Naples Junior Women's Club raised, were used to purchase audio-visual equipment.

County Museum and Archives, Naples (1975-76)

Total Cost \$95,818

Commission Grant \$10,000

The Board of County Commissioners donated a one-acre site on courthouse grounds for a 5,000 square foot building to house and preserve a valuable collection of history books, transcripts of interviews with county pioneers, newspapers, fossils, and Indian relics. The museum will also house a genealogical library.

Columbia County

County History (1975-76)

Total Cost \$5,000

Commission Grant \$2,500

Dr. Edward F. Keuchel, Associate Professor of History at Florida State University, is completing the research and writing of Columbia County's history. The Action '76 Committee sponsored the work and provided matching funds.

Purchase of Library Books, Lake City (1976-77)

Commission Grant \$893

The Action '76 Committee allocated \$893 of its administrative funds to purchase books for a Florida section in the county library.

Dade County

Third Century USA, Miami (1971-77)

Total Cost \$1,120,700

Commission Grant \$ 641,462 (\$50,000 federal funds)

In conjunction with the City of Miami and Dade County, the Commission funded Third Century's staff and operations. Some 15,000 volunteers participated on various committees that conducted the hundreds of programs that led to many civic improvements and reflected the city's varied culture.

Interama, Miami (1972-73)

Commission Grant \$100,000

Miami in 1970 was designated one of four national Bicentennial Cities. Early plans for its role in the observance included revising the ambitious decades-old Interama scheme. (See text of report.)

Hemispheric Congress for Women, Miami (1974-76)

Total Cost \$225,000

Commission Grant \$ 1,500 (1974-75)

\$12,000 (1976-77)

Delegates from throughout the western hemisphere met in Miami August 12-25, 1976, to examine common problems of women and develop model solutions. The U. S. Department of State simultaneously hosted the 18th Conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Oath of Allegiance, Miami (1976-77)

Total Cost \$15,000

Commission Grant \$ 6,500

More than 7,200 new citizens took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on July 4, 1976, in an impressive ceremony staged in the Miami Beach Auditorium. The City of Miami Beach and the Committee for Citizenship contributed to the project. Many local, state, and national leaders participated in the ceremony.

Duval County

Arts Fourth, Jacksonville (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$22,450
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000

Arts Fourth was initiated in 1974 as a series of cultural events and celebrations held each summer in conjunction with the July 4 celebration. Sponsored by the Jacksonville Bicentennial Commission and the Arts Assembly of Jacksonville, it included a visual art show, food festival, music program, Jacksonville Ballet Theater, and children's art.

Joseph E. Lee Memorial Library & Museum, Jacksonville (1974-76)

Commission Grants	\$ 2,720 (feasibility study 1974-75)
	\$10,242 (construction 1975-76)
	\$ 1,500 (equipment 1976-77)

The Joseph E. Lee Library and Museum was established as a depository of documents relating to the history and achievements of blacks in Jacksonville and in Florida. The center, which is on the Florida Bicentennial Trail, contains documents, records, and microfilm.

Bicentennial Flag Pavilion, Jacksonville Beach (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$21,143
Commission Grant	\$ 1,500

A project undertaken by residents and community organizations in Jacksonville Beach, the pavilion was decorated with the flags of 50 states, the United States, the Bicentennial, and the City of Jacksonville Beach. Architect Don White of Reynolds, Smith and Hills provided the design.

Historic Trail Brochure, Jacksonville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$3,500
Commission Grant	\$1,100

The Duval County school system, chamber of commerce, and Tourist and Convention Bureau cooperated with the Jacksonville Bicentennial Commission to produce a brochure that describes historic sites in northeast Florida. The brochure enables visitors and residents to organize hiking or automobile tours of points of interest in the area.

King's Road Markers, Jacksonville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$7,000
Commission Grant	\$2,500

Constructed between 1763 and 1776, King's Road ran from Brunswick, Georgia, to Cowford (Jacksonville), St. Augustine, and New Smyrna, serving as the main highway to colonial Florida. The project consisted of placing fifteen markers explaining the significance of historic sites along the old road. Mr. James Ward compiled the list.

St. John's Bluff Historic Sign, Jacksonville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$2,500
Commission Grant	\$ 800

The St. John's Bluff Historical Association, a committee of the Jacksonville Bicentennial Commission, erected a large sign publicizing events of significance in Florida's history. Designed by W. A. Hottinger, the sign is located at Fort Caroline Memorial Park.

Jacksonville Children's Museum: "The River, The Road, and The Revolution" (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$23,850
Commission Grant	\$10,000

An exhibit located at the Jacksonville Children's Museum, "The River, The Road, and The Revolution", presents for school children a visual story of the area's past. It includes replicas of a sawmill, a smoke-house, a ship's deck, and additional artifacts and dioramas that illustrate the past in authentic detail.

An American Opera, Jacksonville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$4,350
Commission Grant	\$ 600

The project funded production of an American opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," at Jacksonville University. The production was also shown on public television in Jacksonville.

Concerts of American Music, Jacksonville (1975-76)

Total Cost \$16,900
Commission Grant \$ 700

The project consisted of two full length concerts at Jacksonville University. The concerts were designed to enhance appreciation of American music.

Home of the Future, Jacksonville (1974-75)

Commission Grant \$12,100 (federal funds)

The Commission grant financed a feasibility study for development of plans and specifications for construction of a house utilizing solar heat and other conservative sources of energy. Construction of a prototype low energy house was initiated February 15, 1977, by the Northeast Florida Homebuilders Association. The University of Florida Department of Architecture contributed to the study.

**Jacksonville Children's Museum: Recreation of a
Pioneer Homestead (1976-77)**

Total Cost \$13,160
Commission Grant \$ 5,000 (federal funds)

The Pioneer Homestead, completed in December 1976, is an adjunct of the Jacksonville Children's Museum. Comprised of a board and batten pioneer house, tobacco barn and corn crib, a cane grinding mill, syrup shed, and blacksmith shop, the complex recreates a typical late nineteenth century Florida pioneer village. More than 50,000 children visit the museum each year.

Escambia County

Pilot City Program, Pensacola (1972-73)

Total Cost \$20,000
Commission Grant \$10,000

The Florida Bicentennial Commission designated the Pensacola/Escambia County area as a pilot metropolitan area in community development for the American Revolution Bicentennial celebration in 1972. The grant supported a five-year countywide program of community development and provided a model for programs elsewhere in the state to promote Florida's Bicentennial celebration.

Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola (1973-74)

Total Cost \$1,500,000
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The Commission contributed to the construction of a building to house the Naval Aviation Museum. Since 1962 a temporary building had housed accumulated artifacts and memorabilia of naval aviation. Successful fund-raising efforts of a non-profit organization resulted in a building designed to be constructed in stages and eventually to contain 284,000 square feet.

Tivoli Highhouse Reconstruction, Pensacola (1972-74)

Total Cost \$143,000
Commission Grant \$129,360 (\$75,000 federal funds)

Located within the area that today is the Pensacola Historic District, the Tivoli Highhouse (circa 1805) was one of the social centers of nineteenth century Spanish Pensacola. This historic building was reconstructed on the original site after archaeological and historical research sponsored by the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. The Commission awarded three separate grants for the project.

Rafford Hall Restoration, Pensacola (1975-76)

Total Cost \$99,000
Commission Grant \$20,000

Rafford Hall, formerly the Pensacola Athletic Club, was built in 1890. It is listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places. Restoration of the building's exterior and interior was undertaken by the North Hill Preservation Association. Rafford Hall will serve as a community center.

Franklin County

Raney House, Apalachicola (1974-75)

Total Cost \$200,000
Commission Grant \$ 10,000

The Raney House, an example of early Greek revival architecture, was built in 1837 and served as the

home of David G. Raney, a successful merchant. The City of Apalachicola and the Apalachicola Historical Society raised funds for its restoration. The building will be used as a museum for tourists and serve as a public meeting place.

Gadsden County

County History (1975-76)

Total Cost \$10,000

Commission Grant \$ 2,500

Written by Miles Womack, Jr. *Gadsden; A Florida County in Word and Picture* is a comprehensive study of the history of this area. The 354-page book includes a full appendix, genealogical material relating to early settlers, and information on historic sites in the county. The Action '76 Committee sponsored the work.

Gulf County

Old St. Joseph Cemetery, Port St. Joe (1974-75)

Total Cost \$1,600

Commission Grant \$ 800

As one of its Bicentennial projects the Gulf County Action '76 Steering Committee undertook to restore and preserve the St. Joseph Cemetery. Improvements included landscaping, markers for unknown graves, and directional signs.

Hamilton County

History of Hamilton County (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,500

Commission Grant \$ 750

Compiled by Cora Hinton, a local resident, the publication, *A Brief History of Hamilton County, Florida*, contains 120 pages of text and photographs. It was a project of the Hamilton County Action '76 Committee.

Hendry County

Civic Center Park Renovation, Clewiston (1976-77)

Total Cost \$22,400

Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The original plan for the City of Clewiston, developed in 1920, included a civic center park, which subsequently suffered deterioration. As its Bicentennial project, the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce supervised renovation of the park to make it suitable for recreation, cultural events, and outdoor presentations.

Hernando County

Beautification of Courthouse, Brooksville (1976-77)

Total Cost \$4,000

Commission Grant \$2,000

Sponsored by the Hernando County Action '76 Committee, this project included replacement of stone benches in public parks and landscaping of the parks and grounds surrounding the Hernando County Courthouse.

Equipment for Robins Park, Brooksville (1976-77)

Total Cost \$4,000

Commission Grant \$2,000

Improving the playground area and restroom facilities located at Robins Bicentennial Park was the major Bicentennial effort undertaken by the black community in Brooksville during 1976.

Equipment for Youth Park, Brooksville (1976-77)

Total Cost \$6,000

Commission Grant \$3,000

The project, undertaken by the Hernando County Action '76 Committee, consisted of purchasing equipment for park areas under development by the Hernando County Commission.

County History (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$10,000
Commission Grant	\$ 2,500

Written by Richard J. Stanaback, an instructor of political science and history at Pasco-Hernando Community College, this history of Hernando County was published by the Action '76 Committee in Brooksville. It traces the development of Hernando County from 1840 to the present. The 318-page text includes a narrative history, photographs, bibliography, and index.

Highlands County**Public Swimming Pool, Sebring (1976-77)**

Total Cost	\$80,000
Commission Grant	\$ 3,500

The project provides the first public swimming pool in Highlands County. It is located on public property adjacent to Sebring High School and is operated under the management and control of the Highlands County School Board.

Restoration of Bandstand, Avon Park (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$1,500
Commission Grant	\$ 750

The Historical Society of the Old Settlers Association of Avon Park restored an original bandstand located on the mall in the center of Avon Park. Built in 1912, the bandstand is one of fewer than a dozen original bandstands remaining in the United States. The interior of the bandstand has been converted into a small museum.

Hillsborough County**Bicentennial Educational Showcase, Tampa (1976-77)**

Total Cost	\$2,750
Commission Grant	\$1,375

The Bicentennial Educational Showcase was a one-day exhibit of Bicentennial projects undertaken by Hillsborough County schools during the 1975-76 academic year. More than 2,200 local students viewed the art works, sculptures, puppet shows, bands, dance groups, gymnastic groups, and other events and activities included in the exhibit.

Brandon Community Center (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$100,000
Commission Grant	\$ 3,000

Brandon previously lacked meeting place facilities. The Brandon Cultural Civic Center Association, organized to develop a community center, obtained the grant to complete an architectural survey.

Celebration '76, Tampa (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$16,000
Commission Grant	\$ 2,000

Celebration '76 was the Spanish Little Theater's theatrical and musical celebration of the ethnic heritage of Tampa and Hillsborough County. The three-hour presentation of songs and dances relating to the Spanish, Italian, and Cuban heritage of the area was presented during Art Festival '76, a community event.

Youth for Understanding Bicentennial Couriers (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$2,436
Commission Grant	\$ 200

Commission funds provided a scholarship for an official "Bicentennial Courier" to carry greetings and invitations from local and state officials to their counterparts abroad as part of the Youth for Understanding student exchange program.

Fourth of July Celebration, Tampa (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$23,175
Commission Grant	\$ 2,300

The Greater Tampa Bicentennial Council, in cooperation with the University of Tampa and the City of Tampa, sponsored the city's Fourth of July celebration. The event included a non-sectarian sunrise service,

an antique automobile procession, a mock reopening of the historic Tampa Bay Hotel, and fireworks along Hillsborough River.

Large Print Reading Material, Sun City (1976-77)

Total Cost \$2,500

Commission Grant \$1,000

The Commission grant provided funds to purchase large print reading material for elderly people residing in Sun City's retirement community.

Restoration of Cuban Club, Ybor City (1976-77)

Total Cost \$10,000

Commission Grant \$ 5,000

Since the late part of the nineteenth century, the Cuban Club has served as a focal point for the Cuban community residing in Ybor City. Commission funds made possible a restoration of the deteriorating building.

Photographic Forms for Tampa's History (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,200

Commission Grant \$ 600

Commission funds were used to provide frames and glass for seventy photographs depicting the city of Tampa during the years 1930-1950. The grant included design of three photographic murals. The Tampa Bay Art Center presented the exhibit on a tour of local schools.

River Walk Parkway, Tampa (1976-77)

Total Cost \$750,000

Commission Grant \$ 7,500

One of the state's most ambitious Bicentennial projects, the Bicentennial River Walk will provide a continuous boardwalk along the Hillsborough River. The project includes boat docking facilities, historical displays and markers, and seating areas.

"SOS" Save Our Station, Plant City (1976-77)

Total Cost \$282,480

Commission Grant \$ 2,500

Renovation of the city's railroad depot, a historical landmark included on the National Register of Historic Sites, was a project of the Arts Council of Plant City. The historic depot will be used as a cultural center and will hopefully deter further deterioration of downtown Plant City.

Riverside Cultural Center, Tampa (1976-77)

Commission Grant \$900

Commission funds purchased visual display cases fabricated for the cultural center.

American Wind Symphony, Tampa (1975-76)

Total Cost \$7,500

Commission Grant \$3,750 (federal funds)

The Tampa performance of the American Wind Symphony was sponsored in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Arts Council. The Florida "Patriots" were honored at this performance at the University of Tampa, May 7, 1976.

Indian River County

Restoration of Historic Women's Club, Vero Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$30,000

Commission Grant \$ 1,000

The Indian River County Bicentennial Committee raised more than \$10,000 to restore and renovate the Vero Beach Women's Club. Built by the club to house the local library in 1916, it is the oldest public building in the city.

Distribution of History Books to County Public Schools,

Vero Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,000

Commission Grant \$ 500

A major project of the Indian River County Action '76 Committee was publication of the *History of Indian River County*. State funds were employed in distributing hardback copies of the publication to the county's public schools and libraries.

Jackson County

Bicentennial Library-Museum and Park, Marianna (1975-76)

Total Cost \$67,000

Commission Grant \$16,500

This joint project of the Jackson County Heritage Society, the City of Marianna, the Jackson County Commission, and the Action '76 Committee resulted in construction of a Bicentennial library-museum and park. It provides the community with a library of adequate size to meet its needs.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County History (1973-74)

Total Cost \$5,000

Commission Grant \$2,500 (federal funds)

Research and writing of the 573-page manuscript was performed by Dr. Jerrell H. Shofner. The project was sponsored by the Jefferson County Action '76 Committee.

Historic Survey, Greenville (1974-75)

Total Cost \$3,200

Commission Grant \$1,600 (federal funds)

Bicentennial funds permitted the Florida Division of Archives and History to enlarge and complete its historical survey of Jefferson County. The survey identified and catalogued cultural resources, located sites for future development as historic parks, and identified sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and the historical marker program.

Downtown Restoration Study, Monticello (1975-76)

Total Cost \$1,037

Commission Grant \$ 200

The study was required as a preliminary step for securing federal funds for restoration purposes.

Historical Marker, Monticello (1976-77)

Total Cost \$480

Commission Grant \$240

The Jefferson County Historical Association developed the marker, which provides information on the history of the county.

Lake County

Outdoor Rustic Theater, Eustis (1976-77)

Total Cost \$20,000

Commission Grant \$ 2,500

The Lake County Action '76 Committee supervised construction of an outdoor rustic theater on the Lake County fairgrounds.

Cooper Memorial Library, Eustis (1976-77)

Total Cost \$2,500

Commission Grant \$1,250

In the absence of a county library system, the Cooper Memorial Library serves the southern part of Lake County. Bicentennial funds provided for improvements to the library and equipment to store further acquisitions.

Casino Renovation, Fruitland Park (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,800

Commission Grant \$1,000

A center for meetings of local groups such as Boy Scouts and Lions Club, the Casino was in need of repair. Bicentennial funds permitted the city to undertake the work.

Cooper Library Improvements, Clermont (1975-76)**Total Cost** \$2,500**Commission Grant** \$ 600

The Commission grant and matching funds provided additional educational equipment and books to be added to the Cooper Memorial Library in Clermont. Acquisitions included encyclopedias, reference books, cassette tapes, slide projector, movie screen, and other equipment.

Little League Complex, Eustis (1975-76)**Total Cost** \$15,000**Commission Grant** \$ 5,000

A section of the recreation complex in Eustis will serve some 600 children who annually participate in city programs. The facility provides for year-round recreational activities.

Lee County**Bicentennial Room, Cape Coral (1976-77)****Total Cost** \$5,000**Commission Grant** \$2,500

Bicentennial funds provided furnishings and equipment for an addition to the Cape Coral Library. The room will include space for public meetings, a movie screen, and display items for the Bicentennial celebration.

Bicentennial Library Expansion Fund, Lehigh Acres (1976-77)**Total Cost** \$2,000**Commission Grant** \$1,000

Expansion of the present library has been undertaken by Lehigh Acres. Commission funds made possible the purchase of display cases and other furniture to equip the American Heritage Room, a significant part of the expanded area.

Junior Museum and Planetarium, Fort Myers (1976-77)**Total Cost** \$167,000**Commission Grant** \$ 15,000 (federal funds)

This nature center is located on a 100-acre site that remains in a natural state of pine and palmetto, wet prairie, and cypress pond. The new building will be used for the exhibition, preservation, and teaching of southwest Florida's rich heritage of natural and human history.

Library and Photo Book Exchange, Lehigh Acres (1974-75)**Total Cost** \$900**Commission Grant** \$450

As its Bicentennial contribution, the Lehigh Acres Public Library developed a pictorial exhibit of America's colonial and revolutionary experience and other Bicentennial information. Funds provided by the Kiwanis Club enabled the library to transport the exhibit throughout the community. Commission funds were used to develop the exhibit.

Leon County**Brokaw-McDougall House Landscape Restoration, Tallahassee (1973-74)****Total Cost** \$2,000**Commission Grant** \$1,000

The Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board restored original landscaping at the Brokaw-McDougall House.

Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board (1974-75)**Total Cost** \$1,180**Commission Grant** \$ 537

A picket fence surrounding the Brokaw-McDougall House grounds recreated the nineteenth century model. The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs and a local lumber company contributed to the project.

Brokaw-McDougall House Restoration, Tallahassee (1974-75)**Total Cost** \$30,425

Commission Grant \$15,000

Restoration of this historic antebellum structure is being supervised by the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board. Funds were used for improvement of the structure and restoration of the two-acre site. The restored house will be used for governmental functions, receptions, conferences, and board meetings.

Brokaw-McDougall House, Tallahassee (1976-77)

Total Cost \$5,000

Commission Grant \$1,000

This project involved restoration of the household outbuilding which served as the smoke house and storage area. The improved building will be used as an exhibit to explain the function of the household economy.

Transportation Pavilion, Tallahassee Junior Museum (1975-76)

Total Cost \$46,100

Commission Grant \$10,000

The Tallahassee Junior Museum's Bicentennial program included a variety of museum developments devoted to the three Bicentennial themes of Heritage, Horizons, and Festivals. The Commission grant was used to complete a transportation pavilion that houses historic vehicles.

Pioneer Farm, Tallahassee Junior Museum (1976-77)

Total Cost \$2,000

Commission Grant \$1,000

Bicentennial funds were used to develop and improve the Junior Museum's Pioneer Farm, which portrays living conditions in late nineteenth century Florida.

Bloxham House, Tallahassee (1976-77)

Total Cost \$25,000

Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The Florida Heritage Foundation used the grant for purchase of the house of William D. Bloxham, who served as governor from 1881-1885 and 1897-1901. Future plans envisage restoration of the property and eventual commercial use with public access under the direction of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board.

Historic District Signs, Tallahassee (1976-77)

Total Cost \$800

Commission Grant \$400

The 1824 survey for the site of Tallahassee provided for a symmetrical design of five squares. The signs indicate the boundaries of four of the squares. Two additional signs were installed on Calhoun Street and Park Avenue in the historic district.

Levy County

Bronson Town Park (1976-77)

Total Cost \$6,000

Commission Grant \$3,000

Situated on two and one-half acres of land donated to the city, the Bronson Town Park is designed for use by families and small groups. It includes barbeque pits, picnic tables, a basketball court, lights, and restroom facilities. The city of Bronson maintains the park.

Manatee County

Library Memorial, Bradenton (1974-75)

Total Cost \$188

Commission Grant \$ 94

The Manatee County Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored this project, which provided the Bradenton Public Library with the Bicentennial Facsimile Series, reproduced copies of rare books on Florida.

Manatee Village Historical Park, Bradenton (1976-77)

Total Cost \$34,228

Commission Grant \$12,500 (federal funds)

The Village Historical Park, established by the Manatee County Historical Commission, consists of a restored church and courthouse. A gazebo has been constructed in the landscape park, which has connected old brick walkways. The courthouse serves as an interpretive museum reflecting a meaningful part of local and national heritage.

Marion County

Kingdom of the Sun Area, Ocala (1975-76)

Total Cost \$3,692
Commission Grant \$ 900

The Heart of Florida Girl Scout Council prepared a pictorial presentation of the history of Marion County that required slides, projectors, tapes, and a tape player. The public library participated in the project, permitting local groups to have access to the presentation.

Martin County

Gilbert’s Bar House of Refuge, Stuart (1975-76)

Total Cost \$73,100
Commission Grant \$10,000

More than a century old, the Gilbert’s Bar House of Refuge is the only remaining one of six original rescue and relief stations for mariners built along the eastern seaboard. The grant provided for authentic restoration of the structure, which is included on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Florida Bicentennial Trail.

Monroe County

Bicentennial Memorial Park, Key West (1976-77)

Total Cost \$60,500
Commission Grant \$ 2,000

State Commission funds were employed to construct a fountain and provide landscaping for the Memorial Park adjacent to the East Martello Towers Museum, a Bicentennial Trail site.

Marathon Community Center (1975-76)

Total Cost \$130,000
Commission Grant \$ 10,000

Co-sponsored by the Marathon Junior Chamber of Commerce, Commission funds permitted completion of the partially constructed center. The center is regularly used by civic and community groups.

Oral History, Key West (1974-75)

Total Cost \$600
Commission Grant \$300

Much of the history of Key West is locked in the memory of its older citizens, descendants of refugees and immigrants from the Caribbean areas who came to the area in the nineteenth century. To preserve their heritage the Key West Women’s Club conducted an oral history program, the results of which have been placed in libraries and made available to succeeding generations.

Nassau County

Alligator Creek Park, Callahan (1976-77)

Total Cost \$30,000
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The only engagement between Revolutionary Colonial forces and English troops during the Revolutionary War took place in what is now Nassau County, Florida. This park commemorates the Battle of Alligator Creek. The Seaboard Coastline Railroad, which donated the ten-acre site, and the Nassau County Commission are cooperating with the local Bicentennial committee in construction of the park.

Okaloosa County

Fort Walton Indian Temple (1976-77)

Total Cost \$20,000

Commission Grant \$ 8,000

Commission funds provided for construction of a shelter on land adjacent to the Fort Walton Indian Mound, a Bicentennial Trail site. Extensive historical and archaeological research contributed to the design of the shelter, which will serve as a public exhibit and promote attendance to cultural displays devoted to the adjoining museum of Indian artifacts.

Okeechobee County

Museum-Historical Schoolhouse, Okeechobee (1974-75)

Total Cost \$65,000

Commission Grant \$16,250

The first schoolhouse in Okeechobee County, constructed in 1909, will serve as a centerpiece to a local park, which is being developed on a two-acre site donated by the county. The Okeechobee Historical Society and the Action '76 Committee have acquired a number of artifacts relating to the early history of the area that will be placed in the restored schoolhouse.

Orange County

Bicentennial Exhibit Center, Orlando (1976-77)

Total Cost \$12,000

Commission Grant \$ 6,000

The Orange County Action '76 Committee subleased an original railroad station in which to display memorabilia and artifacts relating to the history of central Florida. Exterior and interior renovation of the structure was necessary. Manned by senior citizen volunteers, the exhibit is free to the public.

John Young Museum Suitcase Exhibit, Orlando (1976-77)

Total Cost \$17,500

Commission Grant \$ 5,000

A suitcase exhibit contains educational material, museum artifacts, and scientific apparatus that can be carried into classrooms. Approximately twelve suitcase exhibits were developed that trace the history of Florida and the United States. They are used for educational instruction.

Eatonville Bicentennial Park (1975-76)

Total Cost \$5,000

Commission Grant \$1,000

Established in 1878, Eatonville was the first all black community in the United States. This Bicentennial project made possible the development of a park area.

History of Central Florida (1974-75)

Total Cost \$12,000

Commission Grant \$ 6,000

A project of the Orange County Action '76 Committee, this publication will trace the history of central Florida surrounding Orange County. Dr. Paul Wehr, an instructor in the History Department at Florida Technological University, is completing the narrative.

Pumper Restoration, Winter Garden (1974-75)

Total Cost \$4,000

Commission Grant \$ 750

The Winter Garden Volunteer Engine Company Number One purchased a 1915 American LaFrance Fire Engine, the first modern gasoline powered fire fighting truck used in central Florida. The Engine Company completely restored the engine, which is displayed in parades and exhibits throughout central Florida.

More than a Memory, Orlando (1975-76)

Total Cost \$100,000

Commission Grant \$ 20,000

The publication is a colorfully illustrated album of memorabilia from Central Florida's past. Much of the memorabilia collected to be photographed now resides in the Church Street Station. The Action '76 Committee received financial assistance from the Sun Bank of Orlando in this ambitious project.

Osceola County

Kissimmee Art and Cultural Center (1975-76)

Total Cost \$150,000
Commission Grant \$ 15,000 (federal funds)

The Center currently houses a theater with a seating capacity of 250, an art room, and historical museum. The grant permitted expansion of the museum and art center from one to three buildings. The Center serves not only Osceola County, but draws audiences and participants from surrounding counties as well.

Palm Beach County

Playhouse Restoration, Lake Worth (1975-76)

Total Cost \$30,000
Commission Grant \$15,000 (federal funds)

The 50-year old Oakley Theater was purchased by the Lake Worth Playhouse Group in 1974 and, with Commission assistance, restored to serve again as a community theatrical facility.

Negro Almanac Purchase, West Palm Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$1,260
Commission Grant \$ 630

The grant helped finance the purchase of *The Negro Almanac*, an important, 1100-page reference book on Afro-American subjects. The Urban League of Palm Beach County co-sponsored the project and distributed copies to school libraries throughout the county.

Recreation Center Equipment, Lake Worth (1976-77)

Total Cost \$4,000
Commission Grant \$2,000

In 1975 the Lake Worth Civitan Club and the Boat Club constructed a recreational building at the Palm Beach Rehabilitation Center. Commission funds furnished tables, chairs, and kitchen equipment for the building, which is used by the handicapped.

Observation Tower, Pahokee (1976-77)

Total Cost \$50,000
Commission Grant \$ 1,000

In commemoration of the Bicentennial, the City of Pahokee built a one hundred-foot observation tower on the shore of Lake Okeechobee, one of the largest fresh water lakes in the United States.

Belle Glade Memorial Museum Addition (1976-77)

Total Cost \$50,000
Commission Grant \$ 2,000

Commission funds helped complete an addition to the Memorial Museum, which was donated to the City of Belle Glade to house local documents and artifacts. The museum is operated by professional librarians in conjunction with the new local historical society.

Riviera Beach History (1976-77)

Total Cost \$2,400
Commission Grant \$1,200

A History of Riviera Beach, Florida, sponsored by the City of Riviera Beach, consolidated local history into one, convenient, 80-page booklet.

South Bay Bicentennial Park (1975-76)

Total Cost \$20,000
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

The grant contributed toward the development of the South Bay Bicentennial Park, whose hexagonal central marker commemorates the Bicentennial, and contains a memorial to area residents who died in the world wars and the hurricane of 1928.

Bicycle Training Center, Boca Raton (1974-75)

Total Cost \$15,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,500

Built by the Pilot Club of Boca Raton, Inc., on land donated by the Palm Beach Board of Public

Instruction, the Jimmy Kitchens Cycledrome is a training center for teaching children bicycle riding and safety rules. The riding range consists of paths and traffic signs for practical instruction.

Heritage Music Festival, West Palm Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost \$17,337
Commission Grant \$ 2,608 (\$2,500 federal funds)

The Heritage Music Festival was a three-day Bicentennial musical celebration staged in West Palm Beach.

American Wind Symphony, Boca Raton (1975-76)

Total Cost \$7,500
Commission Grant \$3,750 (federal funds)

The Arrida Corporation and the First Bank and Trust Company of Boca Raton contributed to this local presentation of the American Wind Symphony.

American Wind Symphony, West Palm Beach (1975-76)

Total Cost \$7,500
Commission Grant \$3,750 (federal funds)

Matching funds for the West Palm Beach performance of the American Wind Symphony were provided by the Flagler National Bank and the City of West Palm Beach.

Pasco County

Bicentennial Mobile Library, New Port Richey (1976-77)

Total Cost \$12,000
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

Retired citizens comprise approximately fifty-four per cent of the residents in the western part of the county. Physical handicaps prohibit many from using the few libraries in the area. The West Pasco Bicentennial Committee purchased and operated one mobile library to serve them. The project will continue beyond the Bicentennial year.

St. Louis Plaza, San Antonio (1975-76)

Total Cost \$29,746
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

Representatives of various civic and municipal committees and organizations joined the San Antonio Bicentennial Committee in its effort to restore the city park and provide an attractive area for residents. Restrooms, picnic tables, and landscaping were added to the park. The project included remodeling of the city hall.

Pinellas County

Treasure Island Memorial Walkway (1976-77)

Total Cost \$3,460
Commission Grant \$1,730

Created by the City of Treasure Island as a Bicentennial memorial, the walkway was constructed at the site of the community center and includes thirty queen palms evenly spaced in an attractive and functional design. Wood and concrete benches were added to the walkway.

Clearwater Marine Science Center (1976-77)

Total Cost \$468,800
Commission Grant \$ 5,000

This ambitious project calls for establishing a new museum on the site of "seaorama." It will include facilities for marine science education and research. Admission fees and private contributions will support the non-profit center. Bicentennial funds were applied to the purchase of special equipment.

**Center for Black History and Culture, St. Petersburg
(1976-77)**

Total Cost \$12,000
Commission Grant \$ 6,000

The Metropolitan Council of St. Petersburg, a branch of the National Council of Negro Women, is restoring a building it owns as a community center for black culture. The building will contain classrooms, meeting rooms, and facilities for conducting poetry, drama, music, dancing, and art instruction. The city provides instructors for the classes.

Recreation Center, Oldsmar (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$33,041
Commission Grant	\$ 1,500

Built to serve citizens of all ages in Oldsmar, the community center contains baseball diamonds, playgrounds, air-conditioned game and meeting rooms, and a picnic and park area. The City of Oldsmar is constructing the recreation complex.

Paperback History of St. Petersburg (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$4,000
Commission Grant	\$2,000

Mr. Del Marth, a local author, performed the research and writing for *St. Petersburg: Once Upon A Time*. The 113-page manuscript provides a comprehensive history of the city. The City of St. Petersburg owns the copyright.

Dunedin Community Pool (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$250,000
Commission Grant	\$ 10,000

A Bicentennial project of the City of Dunedin, whose rapidly growing population has reached 27,500, was construction of a municipal swimming pool that will serve all residents of the community. Grant funds financed architectural fees for the pool and surrounding area.

American Wind Symphony, Clearwater (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$7,500
Commission Grant	\$3,750 (federal funds)

The City of Clearwater Bicentennial Festival Committee raised matching funds for the local performance of the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. The performance took place April 15, 1976.

Pinellas County Historical Park (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$201,333
Commission Grant	\$ 25,000 (\$15,000 federal funds)

Located at the population center of Pinellas County on ten acres of county property, the park makes available a visual and tangible portrait of Pinellas County's history. The park includes an expanded historical museum.

Polk County**Lake Wales Museum and Fine Arts Center (1975-77)**

Total Cost	\$60,000
Commission Grant	\$ 7,000

The Lake Wales Bicentennial Committee received two separate grants from the Bicentennial Commission to complete its museum and fine arts center, located in a remodeled depot. The Seaboard Coastline Railroad donated its train station for the project. Within the refurbished station are a museum, art gallery, small theater, and space for public meetings.

Lake Silver Amphitheater, Winter Haven (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$12,000
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000

A lack of space for recreational activities and meetings moved the Winter Haven Bicentennial Committee to renovate and restore the Lake Silver Amphitheater, constructed in the 1940s by prisoners of war. It has a seating capacity of 2,400. The building and the surrounding area were cleaned up, restored, and made available for public use.

**Congressional Medal of Honor Society Meeting, Lakeland
(1975-76)**

Total Cost	\$25,000
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000

In 1975 Lakeland played host to the national convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Commission funds helped to finance the civic event that honored the veterans of America's wars.

Putnam County**County History (1975-76)**

Total Cost	\$18,280
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Commission Grant \$ 2,500

The River Flows North: A History of Putnam County, Florida is a 250-page manuscript that includes maps, charts, tables, and illustrations. It is copyrighted by the Putnam County Archives and History Commission. Brian Michaels, a local resident who wrote the manuscript, was assisted in his research by a committee of local residents.

Saint Johns County

Cross and Sword Amphitheater Cover Study, St. Augustine (1973-74)

Total Cost \$7,000

Commission Grant \$5,318 (\$3,500 federal funds)

"Cross and Sword," the official state play, is staged throughout the year in an amphitheater on Anastasia Island. Inclement weather causes frequent cancellation of the production. The grant financed a feasibility study for covering the amphitheater.

St. Augustine Historical and Archaeological Research Project (1973-74)

Total Cost \$95,000

Commission Grant \$45,000 (federal funds)

Research was carried out on the site of a structure that dated from the period of British occupation (1763-1783). The St. Augustine Preservation Board supervised the project, which resulted in the eventual reconstruction of a British period home on St. George Street in the historic section of the city.

Historical Walking and Driving Guide, St. Augustine (1975-76)

Total Cost \$7,500

Commission Grant \$3,750

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Florida published a 48-page booklet, *Turn Left at the Plaza*, describing historic walking and driving tours in St. Augustine and northeast Florida. Profits from sale of the 5,000 printed copies of the book are earmarked for restoration of the Ximinez-Fatio House (1798), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Spanish Well, St. Augustine (1975-76)

Total Cost \$1,240

Commission Grant \$ 450

A large coquina well, built during the first Spanish period (prior to 1763) and filled in during the British period (1763-1784), was discovered in St. Augustine's historic town plaza in 1974. The well was excavated and restored. Specimens from the excavation were preserved and studied and placed in a small exhibit in Government House.

East Florida Rangers, St. Augustine (1975-76)

Total Cost \$14,346

Commission Grant \$ 1,500

The East Florida Rangers Fife and Drum Corps is a volunteer organization that performs in historic St. Augustine and other locations. Grant funds helped purchase historically authentic equipment and uniforms for the Rangers, who portray a loyalist irregular unit of the King's Rangers, which served in East Florida during the American Revolution.

Alcazar Hotel, St. Augustine (1974-75)

Total Cost \$31,500

Commission Grant \$15,750

The Alcazar Hotel, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1888 by Henry Flagler. It was converted into a museum for art, antiques, and artifacts, which opened in January 1948. Funds provided for renovation and conversion of the main building into a multi-use area with a reception and meeting hall, and space for shows and theatrical performances.

Alcazar Hotel Study, St. Augustine (1973-74)

Total Cost \$10,000

Commission Grant \$ 2,650

Grant funds provided for a study of the feasibility of converting a portion of the Alcazar Hotel into a 300-seat community theater.

**Reconstruction of Geronimo de Hita House, St. Augustine
(1977-78)**

Total Cost	\$20,067
Commission Grant	\$ 6,000

The Commission grant will partially fund an accurate reconstruction of the Geronimo de Hita House, a two-cell tabby structure typical of the period 1720-1763. When completed, the house will provide a setting for school-group educational programs on daily life in eighteenth-century Florida.

Saint Lucie County

“Along These Waters,” Fort Pierce (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$7,707
Commission Grant	\$2,500

Written by a local historian, Ada Coats Williams, “Along These Waters,” a theatrical interpretation of Indian life and the European settlement of the Indian River area. It was staged as an outdoor pageant March 4-7, 1976.

Santa Rosa County

L & N Depot Restoration, Milton (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$15,000
Commission Grant	\$ 7,500

The Santa Rosa Historical Society converted the city’s deteriorating depot into a local museum that will include artifacts, documents, and items of historical interest to the area. Considerable effort went into reconstruction of the building, which now houses the Santa Rosa Historical Society.

Hiking Trail, Milton (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$750
Commission Grant	\$375

As an Eagle Scout project the Boy Scouts of Santa Rosa County constructed a hiking trail through the Blackwater State Forest. The Gulf Coast Council of the Boy Scouts of America gave its approval to the project.

Sarasota County

Historical and Natural Science Center

Total Cost	\$60,000
Commission Grant	\$15,000 (federal funds)

Located near Osprey, the Sarasota County Historical and Natural Science Center was designed to provide educational and museum facilities for area residents. The Center includes a pioneer village, historical museum and science center, outdoor classrooms, and a nature study center.

Alfred Bidwell-Luke Wood House, Sarasota (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$20,000
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000

The Luke Wood House is the oldest complete structure in Sarasota County. The house was relocated in a scenic area that will serve as the site of a museum complex and architectural exhibit. The Sarasota County Vocational Technical Center provided renovation assistance under the direction of American Institute of Architects professionals.

Veterans Memorial Park, Venice (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$60,000
Commission Grant	\$ 2,500

The Sarasota County Bicentennial Committee and Venice veterans organizations, assisted by a state Bicentennial grant, cooperated in developing a memorial park that will include an open-air memorial, flag center, and fountain. The City of Venice dedicated beach area property to the park project.

Pan American Horizons, Ringling Museum, Sarasota (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$40,000
Commission Grant	\$ 7,500

As a gesture of international understanding the Ringling Museum of Art Foundation developed an exhibit of Latin American painting and sculpture that it sent on tour throughout the state of Florida during the Bicentennial year. The exhibition consisted of some one hundred works of sculpture and painting tracing the development of Latin American art in the twentieth century.

Seminole County

Victorian Landscaping, Longwood (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$10,330
Commission Grant	\$ 2,000

The Longwood Historic District was designated as part of the Florida Bicentennial Trail. Within the district lies the Bradlee-McIntyre House, which is a model of Victorian architecture. Grant funds provided for regrading public grounds, landscaping, installation of antique brick walls, and a picket fence surrounding the house. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lake Brantley High School Band, Forest City (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$9,300
Commission Grant	\$1,000

The Lake Brantley Band was chosen by the U. S. National Jaycees to represent the state of Florida at the 1976 Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, D. C. The grant funds were used to help defray travel expenses.

Historical Restoration, Sanford (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$13,000
Commission Grant	\$ 6,500

The central business district of downtown Sanford provides an excellent example of turn-of-the-century Victorian architectural style. Through preservation and restoration efforts, sponsors of the project secured a listing for the Sanford district in the National Register of Historic Places. It is thus one of a small number of districts in the state that have qualified for that selection.

Ecological Studies Building (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$33,500
Commission Grant	\$14,000

The Citrus Council of Girl Scouts owns a 160-acre tract of land with a lake in Seminole County. An ecological studies building was built on the tract. The area offers a typical Florida forest in which studies of water, soil, wildlife, and plant life can be undertaken. The building houses facilities for displays, laboratory work, and lectures.

Commemorative Walk (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$4,395
Commission Grant	\$1,200

The project involved an effort to gather oral histories and similar historic material in a journey from Sanford to Philadelphia. A resident of Seminole County donated a truck and the gas and oil for the trip, which was conducted by Mrs. Barbara L. Muller.

Sumter County

Bicentennial Museum (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$4,000 (estimated)
Commission Grant	\$1,500

The Action '76 committee developed and furnished a model nineteenth-century pioneer home. Located at the county livestock and crops pavilion, the permanent exhibit contains a cane mill, grist mill, and a number of nineteenth-century artifacts.

Suwannee County

Bleacher Construction in the Rodeo Arena (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$30,000
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000

Bleacher space at the Suwannee County fairgrounds, which are the scene of many local events, including an annual International Rodeo Association championship, is limited. For example, some 7,000 spectators attended the July 4, 1976, celebration there, although seating capacity is merely 750. Grant funds will provide for expansion to accommodate 4,000 spectators. The Suwannee County Action '76 Committee and the Suwannee County Commission cooperated in the project.

Taylor County

Bicentennial Exhibit and Forest Study Center, Perry (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$2,250 (estimated)
Commission Grant	\$1,125

As its main project, the Taylor County Action '76 Committee assisted in completing a local museum, located in a renovated bank building, and contributed to a forest study center that contains displays and materials relating to the county's main industry.

Union County

Restoration of Historical Building, Lake Butler (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$4,000
Commission Grant	\$2,000

The Lake Butler Women's Club's large, two-story building is one of the few historic sites remaining in Union County. It served as the county courthouse from 1921 until 1936. The Women's Club has renovated the building for preservation as a historical landmark and use as a public library for the community.

Union County Pictorial Album (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$1,000
Commission Grant	\$ 500

The Lake Butler Women's Club obtained through newspapers, letters, telephone calls, and personal contact photographs relating to the history of Union County. It published a ninety-four-page album of the photos and a brief county history.

Volusia County

Youth Bicentennial Park, Daytona Beach (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$170,988
Commission Grant	\$ 10,000 (\$2,874 federal funds)

A project of the Volusia County Action '76 Committee, Volusia County, and the Volusia County School Board, the park is located on 200 acres east of DeLand. Its focus will be conservation and youth recreation compatible with preservation of the park's natural heritage. Nature trails, a parking area, a sports and camping area, and an amphitheater are located on the grounds.

Halifax Historical Museum (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$210,000
Commission Grant	\$ 2,500

The state contributed to construction of a concrete block building to house the museum, which has been named the "Bicentennial House" in honor of the nation's Bicentennial. It is located at Daytona Beach Community College and is a joint project of the college and the Halifax Historical Society.

Cultural-Recreational Site Plan, New Smyrna Beach (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$6,113
Commission Grant	\$2,292

A Cultural Center Committee, established by the City Commission of New Smyrna Beach, developed plans for a complex that would include cultural, recreational, historical, and community facilities. Schweizer and Associates, Architects of Winter Park, drew the plans, valued in excess of \$6,000. The cost included a twenty-five per cent donation of the firm's services.

Volusia County History (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$5,000
Commission Grant	\$2,500

This project entailed the research, writing, and publication of a Bicentennial commemorative history of Volusia County from frontier settlement through the plantation era and Civil War to the present. The 185-page manuscript was written by historian Michael G. Schene in cooperation with the Volusia County Bicentennial Committee.



Restoration of historic Wakulla County Courthouse was a major project of Local Action '76 committee.

Wakulla County

Restoration of old Courthouse, Crawfordville (1975-76)

Total Cost	\$27,511
Commission Grant	\$10,000

Wakulla County's old wooden courthouse was built in 1892-93 by the George Tully family. The courthouse forms the median marker from which all county surveys are taken. Grant monies were used for various kinds of renovation work. The public library was moved into the building and the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce uses one room as its headquarters. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Walton County

Chautauqua House Restoration Study, DeFuniak Springs (1973-74)

Total Cost	\$10,000
Commission Grant	\$ 5,000 (federal funds)

The turn of the century Chautauqua movement resulted in construction of a cultural center in the area that was vacated in the 1930s and allowed to deteriorate. Restoration and preservation of the building,

which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was undertaken by the City of DeFuniak Springs and the Walton County Bicentennial Committee.

Flowersview Community Center (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$3,000
Commission Grant	\$1,500

Flowersview, a black community settled in the latter half of the 1880s, is located in the northwest corner of Walton County about twenty-five miles from DeFuniak Springs. Grant funds helped refurbish the only building available for community use.

**Community and Emergency Service Center, Santa Rosa Beach
(1974-75)**

Total Cost	\$27,427
Commission Grant	12,111

Some 8,000 residents in an area geographically isolated from the rest of Walton County benefit from this community center, which serves all community groups. The emergency center houses ambulance and fire protection services not previously available.

Washington County

Restoration of Greenberry Bush Home, Chipley (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$20,000
Commission Grant	\$ 2,500

The Greenberry Bush Home is a replica of residences that existed in the area a century ago. People from all sectors of the community contributed to construction of this model pioneer home, which includes a kitchen, syrup mill barn, outhouse, well, and family cemetery. Mrs. Clayton Bush donated the house and the buildings for restoration.

Department of Education

Life Saving Techniques (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$6,000
Commission Grant	\$5,000

Representatives from each Florida school district participated in a conference of life saving techniques that included cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques, blood pressure as an indicator of physical condition, first aid for the choking victim, and women’s breast self-examination for evidence of cancer. Participants conducted local workshops upon return to their communities to demonstrate learned techniques.

Department of Natural Resources

Restoration of Cascades State Historic Site - Phase II (1977)

Total Cost	\$34,000
Commission Grant	\$17,000 (federal funds)

The Cascades Park within the Tallahassee Capitol Center, encompassing the historic Prime Meridian Marker, is the site of a unique natural setting that played a role in the area’s selection in 1824 as the capital of the Territory of Florida. The property is a State Historic Site under the administration of the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources. This project, under the direction of the Division of Recreation and Parks, will complete “Phase II” of the restoration of Cascades Park to its former natural and historical setting.

Fort George Archaeological Research (1973-74)

Commission Grant	\$17,000
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Fort George served as the British main defense of Pensacola during the American Revolution. Its capture by the Spanish in 1781 ended British control of the Gulf of Mexico. A Bicentennial project to acquire, study, and preserve a representative part of Fort George was undertaken in cooperation with the City of Pensacola and the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks. The Commission funded the archaeological research of the site, which formed the basis for the establishment of a historical park in Pensacola.

Department of State

Narrative Film, Fine Arts Council (1976-77)

Total Cost \$50,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,000

Produced by Victor Nunez, the film exhibits the artistic talent that is found in Florida and the contributions that Florida's unique environment provides for the arts. The film, made for public television, will be shown within the state and nationally.

Film on Florida's Capitol (1976-77)

Total Cost \$31,117
Commission Grant \$29,917

The grant produced a documentary film that served to record the historical and architectural significance of the Capitol building of the State of Florida. The film established the historical evolution of Florida's Capitol through every era. The film will be distributed to business and civic organizations, schools, public and commercial television, and theaters. It will also be used to orient groups touring the Capitol building. The Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management supervised the development of the film.

Fort Foster Archaeological and Historical Research (1973-74)

Commission Grant \$25,000

Fort Foster was a typical Florida frontier outpost during the Second Seminole War (1835-42). The site is adjacent to Hillsborough State Park north of Tampa and is under state ownership. Plans were developed by the Division of Recreation and Parks to establish the property as a state historic site with the interpretive reconstruction of Fort Foster. The Commission funded project research by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management.

Indian Key Archaeological and Historical Research (1972-73)

Total Cost \$51,409
Commission Grant \$50,000

Owned by the State of Florida, Indian Key was the location of a thriving salvage business in the 1820s and 1830s. The Key, located in Monroe County, is of such historical significance that the Commission funded archaeological and historical investigation of the site. The research project was conducted by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management in cooperation with the Division of Recreation and Parks.

Fort Tonym Research (1974-75)

Total Cost \$5,610
Commission Grant \$2,845

The Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, was requested by the Florida Bicentennial Commission to design and direct a program that would result in the location and assessment of Fort Tonym, a revolutionary war period site on the St. Mary's River in Nassau County. The fort was acquired by the British in 1763 and used for about one year. The objective of the project was to find the exact location of the fort, determine the general distribution of eighteenth century remains within the fort outline, and assess the degree of preservation of archaeological materials.

Spanish Mission Project - Phases I and II (1972-75)

Commission Grant \$18,285

Phase I of the Spanish Mission Project, carried out in 1971-72, involved the archaeological survey of the Apalachee Mission region: Leon, Jefferson, Taylor, and Madison counties. As a result of this initial Bicentennial project, eleven Apalachee Spanish mission sites (seventeenth century) were located and preliminary research conducted. Phase I was conducted by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State.

Phase II of the Spanish Mission project, also funded by the Bicentennial Commission and conducted by the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, was completed in early 1975. The purpose of this project was to locate and test four seventeenth century Spanish mission sites in order to determine the best preserved site for possible acquisition and interpretive development as a state historic site. The four sites investigated were San Lorenzo de Ivitachuco, San Joseph de Ocuya, San Miguel de Asile, and San Pedro de Prothiriba, located in Jefferson and Madison counties.

Archaeological Survey Project of Leon County (1974-75)

Commission Grant \$6,000

The Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, conducted an archaeological survey of Leon County, attempting to locate as many prehistoric Indian sites as possible, devoting particular attention to those of the latest prehistoric period which might conceivably have been used at the time of the Hernando de Soto expedition. A year after the survey, a report of its results was submitted to the Commission. The report included an assessment of the success of the attempts to find the de Soto wintering site and projections for future archaeological survey needs in the Leon County area.

Capitol Center Survey (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$20,808
Commission Grant	\$ 9,552

The Commission, in cooperation with the Capitol Center Planning Commission and the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, initiated the project of surveying all sites, structures, objects, and buildings in the Capitol Center area possessing sufficient historical or archaeological significance. The purpose of the project was to develop a comprehensive master use plan to be utilized in all future development activities in the Capitol Center, with emphasis on preserving the tangible remains of the past.

Historic American Buildings Survey (1972-75)

Commission Grant	\$20,000
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The Commission, in cooperation with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, sponsored Historic American Buildings Survey projects in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Tampa, and Key West. The purpose was to record a selected group of historically significant structures in each city with measured drawings, photographic documentation, and written historical and architectural data. The four HABS Bicentennial projects each lasted twelve weeks and were organized and administered by the National Park Service. All recorded data is on file at the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management.

Jacksonville Historical Survey (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$35,000
Commission Grant	\$17,000

In the last decade the city of Jacksonville has undergone many changes. Urban renewal programs and development projects have resulted in the destruction of numerous historic landmarks. The Historic American Buildings Survey project selected a limited area to be surveyed. To augment that 1974 project, the Commission funded an additional historical survey to record the many significant structures still remaining in Jacksonville, many of which will soon disappear. The project was carried out in cooperation with the City of Jacksonville and the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management.

Revolving Trust Fund for "Topics in Florida Prehistory and History" (1977-78)

Total Cost	\$36,000
Commission Grant	\$15,550

The Division of Archives, History and Records Management will use grant monies to establish a revolving trust fund to finance publication of a series of books aimed at the general public. The series, entitled "Topics in Florida Prehistory and History," will present and interpret information about the major periods, peoples, and themes in Florida's past.

Florida Bicentennial Trail (1977-78)

Commission Grant	\$5,000
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The Division of Archives, History and Records Management will use grant funds for future operation and administration of the Florida Bicentennial Trail.

University Presses of Florida

Florida Facsimile Series (1972-77)

Commission Grant	\$133,893 (10,000 federal funds)
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In cooperation with the University Presses of Florida, the Commission sponsored publication of twenty-five rare, out-of-print books relating to 450 years of Florida history. With publication of the series, the Commission is making these valuable and sometimes unobtainable books available to scholars and the interested reading public.

History Symposia and Papers (1972-76)

Commission Grant	\$35,000
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In March of 1972 the commission held the first in a series of five history symposia at the University of Florida. Subsequent symposia were held each year at Florida International University, Florida.

Technological University, Florida State University, and University of West Florida. The symposia were designed to encourage historical research on the colonial and revolutionary history of Florida. Noted historians were invited to present papers, which were then published as a part of this Bidentennial project.

Florida in the American Revolution, J. Leitch Wright
(1974-75)

Commission Grant \$5,624 (\$300 federal funds)

The Commission supported research and writing of this definitive history of Florida during the revolutionary period. Dr. J. Leitch Wright of the Florida State University Department of History performed extensive archival research in England and the United States in preparation for writing the narrative.

University Systems

"Fascination of Florida," Brevard Community College (1976-77)

Total Cost \$42,729

Commission Grant \$ 6,250

Produced by faculty members at Brevard Community College, the "Fascination of Florida" presents a five-screen, multi media production that contains more than 2,400 slides portraying the beauty and diversity of Florida.

Restoration of Historic Black Church, Florida Agricultural
and Mechanical University (1976-77)

Total Cost \$42,179

Commission Grant \$ 4,500

The project involved restoration and relocation to the Tallahassee Junior Museum of what is believed to be the oldest black church in Florida. Interior and exterior of the building will be restored to its original appearance of 125 years ago.

Black Floridian Archives Center, Florida Agricultural and
Mechanical University (1975-76)

Total Cost \$30,000

Commission Grant \$15,000 (federal funds)

Heightened interest in Afro-American studies has resulted in a greater awareness of the need to preserve historical materials relative to the heritage of minorities. The Black Archives Center at Florida A & M University will preserve the history of blacks in Florida with oral histories, photographs, documents, and maps.

Florida Enters the Union, Florida State University (1976-77)

Total Cost \$3,000

Commission Grant \$1,500

Tallahassee's July 4, 1976, celebration included a reenactment of Florida's entrance into the Union in 1845. The Commission grant made possible research and writing of a monograph by the Florida State University Bicentennial Committee describing the historic event.

"Recycling American Homes: Preservation Technology,"
Florida State University (1977-78)

Total Cost \$4,312

Commission Grant \$2,000

A one and a half day program of free public lectures on preservation technology will highlight Bicentennial efforts to stimulate recycling of historic structures and will provide instruction for preservation professionals, knowledgeable amateurs and the general public. Joint sponsors are the Center for Professional Development and Public Service at Florida State University and the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board.

Bicentennial Materials Project, Teacher Education Projects,
Florida State University (1977-78)

Total Cost \$12,331

Commission Grant \$ 8,000

Historical and geographical materials produced by Bicentennial Commission projects will be used as the basis for instructional packages for Florida teachers and students in grades 4 through 12. Sponsored by Teacher Education Projects, a service agency of Florida State University, the program will yield some twenty lessons which will be distributed through the Panhandle Area Educational Cooperative.

**Cockroach Bay Environmental Studies Center, Hillsborough
Community College (1973-78)**

Total Cost	\$103,840
Commission Grants	\$ 3,300 (feasibility study 1973-74, federal funds)
	\$36,630 (implementation of project 1975-76)
	\$ 2,750 (purchase of pontoon boat 1977-78)

These grants and matching funds were used to develop the Environmental Studies Center at Cockroach Bay. Located on twenty acres of land donated by Tampa Electric Company in 1973, project funds were used to purchase research and educational equipment and construct the modular buildings for laboratory and classroom use. The center offers public and college environmental education programs as well as adult and in-service training programs.

**University of Florida Radio Tapes on Bicentennial Trail Sites
(1974-75)**

Total Cost	\$7,693
Commission Grant	\$3,846

This project consisted of a series of fifty-two radio programs, each four and one-half minutes in length, providing individual narratives on the Bicentennial Trail. They were provided for spot use to public and private radio stations throughout the state. The series encouraged listeners to visit Trail sites and enhanced appreciation of Florida's history.

University of Florida Calendar of Spanish Holdings (1974-75)

Total Cost	\$28,000
Commission Grant	\$10,000

The Spanish holdings at the P. K. Yonge Library at the University of Florida are now the most complete collection in the United States of materials related to Florida's Spanish periods. Many archives are represented in photostatic copies, microfilm, manuscript collections of Spanish transcriptions, and published works held in the library. The staff created annotated, cross-indexed, chronologically arranged files that list each document and published work in the holdings.

**Architectural Preservation - Teaching Guide for Programs in
General Education, University of Florida (1977-78)**

Total Cost	\$13,390
Commission Grant	\$ 6,000

In 1972, students in the Department of Architecture at the University of Florida began to develop a syllabus for teaching architectural preservation to secondary school students. The Commission grant will assist the modification of that syllabus to incorporate recent developments in architectural preservation

**Panton, Leslie and Company Papers, University of West
Florida (1974-75)**

Total Cost	\$13,996
Commission Grant	\$ 6,998

Panton, Leslie and Company was an important trading firm that operated in Florida and the Southeast from 1784 to 1821. Dr. William S. Coker, in collaboration with Dr. Thomas D. Watson and Dr. David H. White, prepared the papers and manuscript. Grant funds supported publication by the University Presses of Florida.

**Creek Indian Bibliography Scholarship, University of West
Florida (1974-75)**

Commission Grant	\$1,500
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Grant funds provided a scholarship for a graduate student at the University of West Florida who, in conjunction with the Fine Arts Council, compiled a bibliography of Creek Indian arts and crafts programs. The bibliography serves as a basic reference for teaching arts and crafts to young Indian children, a basic stem in reviving a culture that is almost lost.

Other Non-local Grants

Florida Special Olympics (1976-77)

Total Cost	\$31,787
Commission Grant	\$ 4,500

The Special Olympics is an annual twelve-month program of athletic training and competition in which the handicapped participate. Commission funds assisted in conducting the games in Gainesville.

Florida Special Olympics - International Games (1975-76)

Total Cost \$21,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,500

In 1975 some 10,000 handicapped persons in Florida participated in a wide range of physical education and sports activities through the Special Olympics program. The 1975 International Special Olympic Games were held August 7-11 at Central Michigan University. Eighty participants from Florida took part in the games through the Bicentennial grant.

Florida Historical Quarterly Index (1975-76)

Total Cost \$15,200
Commission Grant \$ 3,513

The Florida Historical Quarterly has long been an invaluable reference source for both scholars and the general reading public. The *Quarterly* was indexed up to 1957. Because of the *Quarterly's* value as a reference for the state's long history, the Commission funded a project to compile and publish an index for the issues published from 1957 through 1976. A first printing of 3,000 copies was produced.

Bicentennial Awareness Program (1974-75)

Total Cost \$900
Commission Grant \$400 (federal funds)

The Florida Jaycees, with an existing statewide base of members, initiated a program to develop public awareness of local Bicentennial projects throughout the state. The program was carried out by means of three program components: "Awareness '76;" "Town Hall Forums;" and "Why July Fourth?"

**Bicentennial Parade of American Music, White Springs
(1976-77)**

Total Cost \$110,396
Commission Grant \$ 10,500

Two Commission grants were awarded to support the Bicentennial Parade of American Music. The grants supported planning and implementation of Florida Day, a presentation in the nation's capitol of musical works written and performed by Florida artists. The project also involved development of a thirteen-week radio series and solicitation of Florida musical compositions.

Series of American Folk Music (1976-77)

Total Cost \$16,400
Commission Grant \$ 7,500 (federal funds)

Held at the Stephen Foster Center in White Springs, this musical program exposed Floridians to America's traditional music, performed by noted professional folk artists. The programs of the series focused on the grass roots cultural heritage of the nation.

Florida Bicentennial Trail Guidebook (1975-76)

Commission Grant \$67,000

The Florida Bicentennial Trail: A Heritage Revisited was published by the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. By legislative mandate, the Commission was responsible for identifying and recognizing archaeological and historical sites which would document Florida's long and rich history. The Commission decided thus to create the Florida Bicentennial Trail. The guidebook locates the fifty-two historical sites, points out other places of interest in each area, and provides pertinent information. Pictures, maps, and sketches are included. The book was distributed to all Florida public schools.

Traveling Exhibit, Florida State Museum (1973-74)

Commission Grant \$294,000 (\$75,000 federal funds)

The Florida Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit consisted of three 40' x 10' vans containing historical and museum exhibits. It was constructed under a grant from the Florida Bicentennial Commission to the Florida State Museum at the University of Florida, which in turn subcontracted the work to two firms, Gart Urban Associates and Presentations South, professional exhibit builders. The exhibit toured the state from January 1975 to November 1976 and was seen by approximately 850,000 people. The vans were donated to the Florida State Museum and the exhibits to the Florida State Division of Archives, History and Records Management.

Florida Architectural Exhibit (1973-74)

Total Cost \$12,000
Commission Grant \$ 7,482

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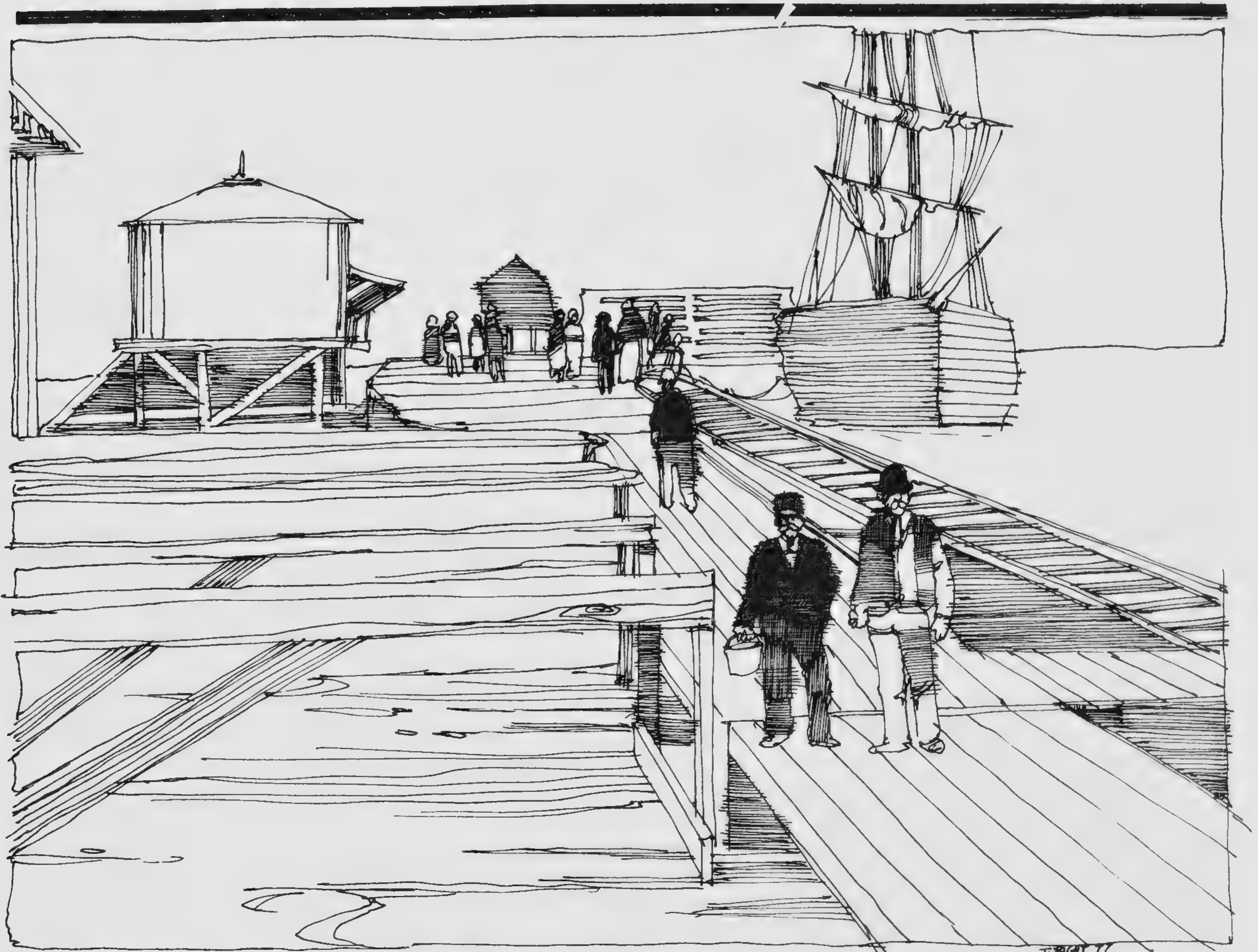
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Bicentennial Schools Festival Week Participants

The schools listed below submitted to the Bicentennial Commission an acceptable program of activities for celebrating the Bicentennial during Schools Festival Week, April 4-10, 1976. Each of the institutions received a certificate from the Commission acknowledging its contribution to the Bicentennial.

ALACHUA COUNTY

Alachua Elementary, Alachua
Duval Elementary, Gainesville
High Springs Elementary, High Springs
Idylwild Elementary, Gainesville
Lake Weir High, Candler
Littlewood Elementary, Gainesville
Mebane Middle, Alachua
Myra Terwilliger Elementary, Gainesville
Prairie View Elementary, Gainesville
St. Patrick, Gainesville
Stephen Foster, Gainesville

BAKER COUNTY

Baker County Middle, Macclenny

BAY COUNTY

Bay Christian Academy, Panama City
Cove Elementary, Panama City
Hutchison Beach Elementary, Panama City
Jinks Junior High, Panama City
Lynn Haven Elementary, Lynn Haven
Mowat Junior High, Lynn Haven
Northside Elementary, Panama City
Tyndall Elementary, Panama City
Waller Elementary, Youngstown
A. Crawford Mosley High, Panama City
Patterson Sixth Grade Center, Panama City

BRADFORD COUNTY

Lawtey Elementary, Lawtey
Southside Elementary, Starke

BREVARD COUNTY

Old Dixie Elementary, Titusville
Madison Middle, Titusville
Freedom 7, Cocoa Beach
Morris College of Business, Melbourne
Sea Park Elementary, Satellite Beach
Edgewood Junior High, Merritt Island
Oak Park Elementary, Titusville
Pineda Elementary, Cocoa
Pinewood Elementary, Mims
South Lake Elementary, Titusville
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne

Audubon Elementary, Merritt Island
Melbourne High, Melbourne
Dr. W. J. Creel Elementary, Melbourne
Roosevelt Middle, Cocoa
Tropical Elementary, Merritt Island
Capeview Elementary, Cape Canaveral
Indialantic Elementary, Indialantic
Lewis Carroll Elementary, Merritt Island
Apollo Elementary, Titusville
Roy Allen Elementary, Melbourne
Surfside Elementary, Satellite Beach
Cambridge Elementary, Cocoa
Robert Louis Stevenson, Merritt Island
Elementary, Merritt Island
Satellite High, Satellite Beach
St. Theresa, Titusville
Fairglens Elementary, Cocoa
Holy Trinity Episcopal, Melbourne
Andrew Jackson Middle, Titusville
Coquina Elementary, Titusville
Cocoa High, Cocoa
Meadowlane, Melbourne
Croton Elementary, Melbourne
University Park Elementary, Melbourne
Whispering Hills Elementary, Titusville

BROWARD COUNTY

Melrose Community, Melrose
Faith Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale
Saint Monica, Carol City
Westford Academy, Coral Springs
Annable C. Perry Elementary, Miramar
North Broward, Lighthouse Point
Crystal Lake Middle, Pompano Beach
Sunshine Elementary, Miramar
Cypress Elementary, Pompano Beach
Pasedena Lakes Elementary, Pembroke Pines
Pioneer Middle, Cooper City
Stranahan High, Fort Lauderdale
Nova High, Fort Lauderdale
Hope Lutheran, Pompano Beach
Snaders Park Elementary, Pompano Beach
North Lauderdale Elementary, North Lauderdale
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Fort Lauderdale
Plantation Park Elementary, Plantation
St. Coleman, Pompano Beach
Walker Elementary, Fort Lauderdale
Pine Crest Lower, Fort Lauderdale
Tedder Elementary, Pompano Beach
Mirror Lake Elementary, Plantation
Norcrest Elementary, Pompano Beach
St. Clement, Fort Lauderdale
Palm Manor Private, Hollywood

St. Mark’s Lutheran, Hollywood
Deerfield Beach Elementary, Deerfield Beach
McNicol Middle, Hollywood
Northeast High, Oakland Park
Cresthaven Elementary, Pompano Beach
Sunland Park Elementary, Fort Lauderdale
Tamarac Elementary, Tamarac
Ely High, Pompano Beach
Morrow Elementary, North Lauderdale
Beth Shalom Day, Hollywood
Bayview, Fort Lauderdale
St. Ambrose Episcopal, Fort Lauderdale
Royal Palm Elementary, Fort Lauderdale
D. D. Eisenhower Elementary, Fort Lauderdale
Hollywood Park Elementary, Hollywood
Deerfield Park Elementary, Deerfield Beach
Apollo Middle, Hollywood
Hollywood Hills High, Hollywood
Horizon Elementary, Sunrise
The Lahue Academy, Fort Lauderdale
West Hollywood Private, Hollywood
American Heritage, Hollywood

CALHOUN COUNTY

Blountstown Junior High, Blountstown

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Lemon Bay Junior High, Englewood

CITRUS COUNTY

Crystal River Primary, Crystal River
Floral City Elementary, Floral City
Inverness Middle, Inverness
Crystal River Elementary, Crystal River

CLAY COUNTY

Orange Park High, Orange Park
Doctors Inlet Elementary, Doctors Inlet
Orange Park Elementary, Orange Park
South Bryan Jennings Elementary, Orange Park
Lakeside Elementary, Orange Park
Clay High, Green Cove Springs
Charles E. Bennett Elementary, Green Cove Springs
W. E. Cherry Elementary, Orange Park
Keystone Heights Elementary, Keystone Heights
Lakeside Middle, Orange Park

COLLIER COUNTY

Tommie Barfield, Marco Island
Immokalee High, Immokalee
Avalon Elementary, Naples
East Naples Middle, Naples

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Fort White Public, Fort White
Kindergarten Center, Lake City
Five Points Elementary, Lake City
Lake City Academy, Lake City
Summers Elementary, Lake City

DADE COUNTY

Mueller Christian Academy and High, Miami
Elementary School of the Greater
Miami Hebrew Academy, Miami
Riverside Elementary, Miami
Parkway Junior High, Opa Locka
Crestview Elementary, Opa Locka
Miami Private, Miami
Benjamin Franklin Elementary, North Miami
West Laboratory, Coral Gables
South Hialeah Elementary, Hialeah
Allapattah Junior High, Miami
Kendale Lakes Elementary, Miami
Berkshire School South, Homestead
Myrtle Grove Elementary, Opa Locka
Miami Edison Middle, Miami
Holy Cross Lutheran, North Miami
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Opa Locka
Avocado Elementary, Homestead
John F. Kennedy Junior High, North Miami Beach
Phyllis Wheatley Elementary, Miami
Gesu, Miami
Berkshire, Miami
Ojus Elementary, Miami
South Beach Elementary, Miami Beach
Jose Marti, Miami
Immaculate Conception, Hialeah
Greynolds Park Elementary, North Miami Beach
Village Green Elementary, Miami
Tropical Elementary, Miami
North Glade Elementary, Opa Locka
DaVinci Institute, Miami
Lavernia, Hialeah
Little White School House, North Miami Beach
M. A. Milam Elementary, Hialeah
Nautilus Junior High School, Miami Beach
Saints Peter and Paul, Miami
Blessed Trinity, Miami Springs
Rockway Elementary, Miami
Heritage, Miami
Lavernia Bilingual, Hialeah
Cutler Ridge Elementary, Miami
Thomas Jefferson Junior High, Miami
St. Theresa, Coral Gables
The Cushman, Miami
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic, Miami
Charles R. Drew Elementary, Miami
St. Joseph, Miami Beach
Carol City Junior High, Opa Locka
St. Lawrence, North Miami
The English Center, Miami
Florida International University, Miami
Edison Private, Hialeah

Notre Dame Academy, Miami
 Trolles, Hialeah
 West Dunbar Elementary, Miami
 Kinloch Park Elementary, Miami
 Palmer Preparatory, Miami
 The Gardiner, Miami
 Blue Lakes Elementary, Miami
 St. Brendon, Miami
 Marian Center, Opa Locka
 Coral Park Elementary, Miami
 Scott Lake Elementary, Miami
 Treasure Island Elementary, Miami Beach
 West Little River Elementary, Miami
 Perrine Elementary, Perrine
 Hope School for Mentally Retarded Children, Miami
 Mae M. Walters Elementary, Hialeah
 John G. Du Puis Elementary, Hialeah
 North Miami Senior High, North Miami
 Banyan Elementary, Miami
 Miami Country Day, Miami
 Riviera Day School, Coral Gables
 Citrus Grove Elementary, Miami
 Homestead Junior High, Homestead
 Forest City Elementary, Forest City
 Sunset Elementary, Miami
 Northwest Christian Academy, Miami
 Coral Terrace Elementary, Miami
 Silver Bluff Elementary, Miami
 Fulford Elementary, North Miami Beach
 North Miami Elementary, North Miami
 Glenn H. Curtiss Elementary, Miami
 Sunset Park Elementary, Miami
 Summit Academy/Academy of Learning, Miami
 Miami Gardens Elementary, Miami
 Gulfstream Elementary, Miami
 First Baptist, Hialeah
 Henry M. Flagler Elementary, Miami
 Ame School, Coral Gables
 Holy Redeemer, Miami
 Abner Wolf, Miami
 Martin Luther King Primary, Miami
 Dade Christian, Hialeah
 Kendale Elementary, Miami
 Florida Christian, Miami
 St. Timothy, Miami
 Holy Rosary, Perrine
 Gratigny Elementary, Miami
 Twin Lakes Elementary, Hialeah
 St. Thomas Xavier, Miami

DESOTO COUNTY

Nocatee Elementary, Nocatee
 DeSoto Middle, Arcadia

DIXIE COUNTY

Anderson Elementary, Cross City
 Dixie County High, Cross City

DUVAL COUNTY

Louis S. Sheffield Elementary, Jacksonville
 Cedar Hills Elementary, Jacksonville
 Joseph Stilwell Junior High, Jacksonville
 Wesconnet Elementary No. 57, Jacksonville
 San Pablo Elementary No. 80, Jacksonville Beach
 Holiday Hill Elementary, Jacksonville
 Dinsmore Elementary, Jacksonville
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Day, Jacksonville
 Biltmore No. 78, Jacksonville
 Jacksonville Junior Academy, Mandarin
 Merrill Road Elementary, Jacksonville
 Jefferson Davis Junior High, Jacksonville
 Assumption, Jacksonville
 Woodland Acres School No. 89, Jacksonville
 George W. Carver No. 158, Jacksonville
 Lone Star Elementary No. 233, Jacksonville
 Stanton Senior High, Jacksonville
 Mayport Elementary No. 227, Atlantic Beach
 Venetia Elementary, Jacksonville
 Long Branch Six Grade Center No. 106,
 Jacksonville
 Spring Park Elementary No. 72, Jacksonville
 Englewood Elementary No. 87, Jacksonville
 Hendricks Day, Jacksonville
 Justina Road Elementary No. 215, Jacksonville
 Love Grove Elementary No. 82, Jacksonville
 Stonewall Jackson Elementary No. 234,
 Jacksonville
 Ortega Elementary, Jacksonville
 Pine Estates Elementary No. 250, Jacksonville
 Pine Forest, Jacksonville
 Louis S. Scheffield No. 242, Jacksonville
 Ribault Senior High No. 96, Jacksonville
 Holiday Hill Elementary No. 209, Jacksonville
 Fort Caroline Elementary No. 235, Jacksonville
 Sherwood Forest Sixth Grade Center, Jacksonville
 San Pablo Elementary No. 80, Jacksonville
 Tolbert Sixth Grade Center No. 128, Jacksonville
 Jacksonville Heights Elementary, Jacksonville
 Lake Forest Elementary, Jacksonville
 Hyde Park No. 77, Jacksonville
 Matthew W. Gilbert Seventh
 Grade Center No. 146, Jacksonville
 Jefferson Davis Junior High, Jacksonville
 Arlington Junior High, Jacksonville
 Highlands Junior High, Jacksonville
 Forrest High, Jacksonville
 James Wildon Johnson, Jacksonville
 John N. C. Stockton No. 88, Jacksonville
 Fort Caroline Junior High, Jacksonville
 Ramona Boulevard Elementary, Jacksonville
 Holy Rosary, Jacksonville
 Hyde Grove, Jacksonville
 The Chappell, Jacksonville
 Paxon Senior High, Jacksonville
 Oak Hill Elementary No. 210, Jacksonville
 Lackawanna Elementary, Jacksonville
 San Jose Elementary No. 83, Jacksonville
 West Jacksonville Elementary, Jacksonville
 Southside Junior High No. 211, Jacksonville
 Julington Creek, Jacksonville

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Warrington Middle, Pensacola
Little Flower, Pensacola
University of West Florida, Pensacola
George Stone Vocational-Technical Center, Pensacola
Jim Allen Elementary, Cantonment
Century High, Century
Pleasant Grove Elementary, Pensacola
J. Lee Pickens, Pensacola
A. V. Clubbs Middle, Pensacola
Annie E. McMillian Elementary, Pensacola
Barrineau Park Elementary, Cantonment
St. Johns, Warrington
Holm Elementary, Pensacola
Bratt School, Atmore, Alabama
St. Thomas More, Pensacola
Pine Forest High, Pensacola
A. K. Suter Elementary, Pensacola
Beulah Elementary, Pensacola
N. B. Cook, Pensacola
East Hill Christian, Pensacola
Allie Yniestra, Pensacola
Montessori Academy of Pensacola, Pensacola
Century Elementary, Century
J. Lee Pickens, Pensacola
Pine Meadow Elementary, Pensacola
Scenic Heights Elementary, Pensacola

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Carrabelle High, Carrabelle
Eastpoint Elementary, Eastpoint

GADSDEN COUNTY

Quincy Junior High, Quincy
St. John Elementary, Quincy
Stewart Street Elementary, Quincy
Wilson's Pre-Kindergarten, Chattahoochee
Greensboro Elementary, Quincy
Havana High, Havana
Gretna Elementary, Gretna
Havana Elementary, Havana
Chattahoochee Elementary, Chattahoochee
George E. Munroe Elementary, Quincy

GULF COUNTY

Wewahitchka High, Wewahitchka

HAMILTON COUNTY

Central Hamilton Elementary, Jasper

HARDEE COUNTY

Wauchula Elementary, Wauchula

HENDRY COUNTY

Clewiston Middle, Clewiston
Harlem Academy Day Care Center, Clewiston
La Belle Elementary, La Belle

HERNANDO COUNTY

Hernando High, Brooksville
Westside Elementary, Spring Hill
Northside Elementary, Brooksville
Brooksville Primary, Brooksville

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Highland Lakes Junior Academy, Avon Park
Fred Wild Elementary, Sebring
Sebring High, Sebring
Avon Park High School, Avon Park
Avon Elementary, Avon Park

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Clair-Mel Elementary, Tampa
Belle Witter 4921, Tampa
Oak Grove Junior High, Tampa
Roosevelt Elementary, Tampa
Lincoln Elementary, Plant City
Forest Hills Elementary, Tampa
Tampa Bay Vocational-Technical High, Tampa
Grover Cleveland Elementary, Tampa
Miles Elementary, Tampa
St. Joseph, Tampa
Beach Park Private, Tampa
Wimauma Elementary, Wimauma
Boys Academy of the Holy Name, Tampa
MacFarlane Park Elementary, Tampa
Lois Elementary, Tampa
Tampa Catholic High, Tampa
Tampa Christian Academy, Tampa
Dale Mabery, Tampa
Sulphur Springs Elementary, Tampa
University of Tampa, Tampa
Bayshore Methodist Christian, Tampa
West Hillsborough Baptist, Tampa
William Glover Elementary, Plant City
Riverhills, Temple Terrace
Morgan Woods Elementary, Tampa
Dover Elementary, Dover
Lanier Elementary, Tampa
Ruskin Elementary, Ruskin
Limona Elementary, Brandon
Monroe Junior High, Tampa
Palm River Elementary, Tampa
Robles Elementary, Tampa
Carrollwood, Tampa
Ballast Point Elementary, Tampa
Stonewall Jackson Elementary, Tampa
Gary Elementary, Tampa
Williams Elementary, Tampa

Egypt Lake Elementary, Tampa
Edison Elementary, Tampa
St. Peter Clover, Tampa
Manhattan Elementary, Tampa
Tampa Reading Clinic and Day, Tampa
Marshall Junior High, Plant City
Francis Bellamy Elementary, Tampa
Tinker Elementary, Tampa
Lassie C. Shaw Elementary, Tampa
Twin Lakes Elementary, Tampa
Mango Elementary, Mango
Knights Elementary, Plant City
Horace Mann Junior High, Brandon
Epiphany of Our Lord, Tampa

HOLMES COUNTY

Prosperity Elementary, Westville

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

A Child's World, Vero Beach
Sebastian Elementary, Sebastian
St. Helen, Vero Beach
Douglas Elementary, Wabasso
Beachland Elementary, Vero Beach
Osceola Elementary, Vero Beach

JACKSON COUNTY

Marianna Middle, Marianna
Sneads High, Sneads
Riverside Elementary, Marianna

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Lafayette High-Elementary, Mayo

LAKE COUNTY

Eustis Elementary, Eustis
Lee Adult Day High, Leesburg
Mount Dora Middle, Mount Dora
Oak Park Elementary, Leesburg
Treadway Elementary, Leesburg
Faith Lutheran, Eustis
Leesburg Middle School - West, Leesburg
Triangle Elementary, Mount Dora
Lake Sumter Community College, Leesburg
Mascotte Elementary, Mascotte

LEE COUNTY

Allen Park Elementary, Fort Myers
Orange River Elementary, Fort Myers
Michigan Elementary, Fort Myers
Caloosa Middle, Cape Coral

Edgewood Elementary, Fort Myers
Tice Elementary, Tice
Pine Island Elementary, Fort Myers
Alva Middle, Alva
Sanibel Elementary, Sanibel
Villas Elementary, Fort Myers
Tropic Isles Elementary, North Fort Myers

LEON COUNTY

Fairview Middle, Tallahassee
Augusta Raa Middle, Tallahassee
Concord Elementary, Tallahassee
Bond Elementary, Tallahassee
Woodville Elementary, Woodville
Belle View, Tallahassee
W. T. Moore Elementary, Tallahassee
FSU Developmental Research, Tallahassee
Pineview Elementary, Tallahassee
Sabal Palm Elementary, Tallahassee
Blessed Sacrament, Tallahassee
Kate Sullivan, Tallahassee
Chaires Elementary, Tallahassee
Sealey Elementary, Tallahassee
Frank Hartsfield Elementary, Tallahassee
Leon High, Tallahassee

LEVY COUNTY

Cedar Key High, Cedar Key
Yankeetown Florida, Yankeetown

MANATEE COUNTY

Jessie P. Miller, Bradenton
Lincoln Middle, Palmetto
Samoset Elementary, Bradenton
Manatee High, Bradenton
Blanche H. Daughtrey, Bradenton
R. H. Prine Elementary, Bradenton
Southeast High, Bradenton
Palma Sola Elementary, Bradenton
Sugg Middle, Bradenton
Orange Ridge Elementary, Bradenton
Myakka City, Myakka City
St. Joseph, Bradenton
Anna Maria, Bradenton
Frances Wakeland, Bradenton
Palmetto Elementary, Palmetto

MARION COUNTY

Lake Weir Middle, Summerfield
Vanguard High, Ocala
Marion Academy, Ocala

Wyomina Park Elementary, Ocala
Stanton/Weirsdale Elementary, Weirsdale
Dunnellon Middle, Dunnellon
Osceola Middle, Ocala
Oakcrest Elementary, Oakcrest
Bellevue Elementary, Bellevue
N. H. Jones Upper Elementary, Ocala
Fort McCoy Elementary, Fort McCoy
South Ocala Elementary, Ocala

MARTIN COUNTY

Murray Middle, Port Salerno
Stuart Middle, Stuart
Indiantown Middle, Indiantown
St. Michael’s, Stuart
Parker Elementary, Stuart
Warfield Elementary, Indiantown
Palm City Elementary, Palm City
Jensen Beach Elementary, Jensen Beach
Port Salerno Elementary, Port Salerno
Hobe Sound Elementary, Hobe Sound
Martin County High, Stuart

MONROE COUNTY

Key Largo Elementary, Key Largo
Sugarloaf Elementary, Sugarloaf Key
Sigsbee Elementary, Key West
May Sands, Key West
Stanley Switlik Elementary, Marathon
Truman Elementary, Key West
Horace O’Bryant Junior High, Key West

NASSAU COUNTY

Hilliard Elementary, Hilliard
Southside Elementary, Fernandina Beach
Hilliard Junior and Senior High, Hilliard
Yulee Elementary, Yulee

OKALOOSA COUNTY

New Heights Elementary, Fort Walton Beach
Meigs Junior High, Shalimar
Silver Sands, Fort Walton Beach
Baker High, Baker
Carver-Hill Kindergarten Center, Crestview
James E. Plew Elementary, Niceville
Southside Elementary, Crestview
St. Mary’s, Fort Walton Beach
Crestview High, Crestview
Wright Elementary, Fort Walton Beach
Longwood Elementary, Shalimar

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Okeechobee Junior High, Okeechobee
Okeechobee Elementary, Okeechobee

ORANGE COUNTY

Aloma Elementary, Winter Park
Judson B. Waller Junior High, Orlando
Meadowbrook Junior High, Orlando
Bear Lake Elementary, Apopka
Brookshire Elementary, Winter Park
Wymore Career Education Center, Eatonville
Audubon Park Elementary, Orlando
Red Bug Elementary, Maitland
Washington Shores Elementary, Orlando
Pine Hills Christian, Orlando
St. James, Orlando
Princeton Elementary, Orlando
Edgewater High, Orlando
Dream Lake Elementary, Apopka
Winter Garden Elementary, Winter Garden
Apopka Junior High, Apopka
Pine Castle Middle, Orlando
Ivey Lane Elementary, Orlando
Dillard Street Elementary, Winter Garden
Dommerich Elementary, Maitland
Killarney Elementary, Winter Park
Spring Lake Elementary, Ocoee
Frances L. Blankner Elementary, Orlando
Forrest Park, Orlando
Ridgewood Park Elementary, Orlando
Zellwood Elementary, Zellwood
Meadowbrook Junior High, Orlando
St. Andrews, Orlando
Riverside Elementary, Orlando
Lake Sybelia Elementary, Maitland
Michael McCoy Elementary, Orlando
Columbia Elementary, Orlando
Winegard Elementary, Orlando
St. Margaret Mary, Winter Park
Durrance Elementary, Orlando
Lake Como Elementary, Orlando
Memorial Junior High, Orlando

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Michigan Avenue Elementary, St. Cloud
Highlands Elementary, Kissimmee
Ross E. Jeffries Elementary, St. Cloud
Thacher Avenue, Kissimmee

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Forest Hill High, West Palm Beach

Barton Elementary, Lake Worth
 Lake Worth Junior High, Lake Worth
 Palm Beach Gardens Elementary,
 Palm Beach Gardens
 Cardinal Newman High, West Palm Beach
 Gove Elementary, Belle Glade
 Margate Middle, Margate
 St. Peter's Lutheran, Belle Glade
 Boca Raton Academy, Boca Raton
 Washington Elementary, Riviera Beach
 Glades Central High, Belle Glade
 John F. Kennedy Junior High, Riviera Beach
 Westward Community, West Palm Beach
 Jupiter Middle/Senior High, Jupiter
 Hagen Road Elementary, Lake Worth
 Boynton Beach Junior High, Boynton Beach
 White's Academy, Lake Park
 Jefferson Davis Middle, West Palm Beach
 South Bay Elementary, South Bay
 Eisenhower Elementary, Lake Park
 Alexander D. Henderson University, Boca Raton
 Pahokee Junior/Senior High, Pahokee
 Lantana Junior High, Lantana
 Holiday Child Care Center, West Palm Beach
 Greenacres Elementary, Greenacres City
 Forest Park Elementary, Boynton Beach
 Belle Glade Elementary, Belle Glade
 Military Trail Elementary, West Palm Beach
 Boynton Beach Elementary, West Palm Beach
 Meadow Par, West Palm Beach
 Palm Beach Gardens High, Palm Beach Gardens
 St. Mark, Boynton Beach
 Glades Central High, Belle Glade
 Golfview Junior High, West Palm Beach
 Conniston Junior High, West Palm Beach
 Golfview Elementary, Belle Glade
 St. Ann's, West Palm Beach
 John I. Leonard High, Lake Worth
 Palmetto Elementary, West Palm Beach

PASCO COUNTY

Hudson Elementary, Hudson
 R. B. Cox Elementary, Dade City
 Schrader Elementary, New Port Richey
 Paul Mort Elementary, Lutz
 Sanders Memorial, Land O' Lakes
 Gulf Junior High, New Port Richey
 Zephyrhills Middle, Zephyrhills
 Anclote Elementary, Elfers
 Pasco-Hernando Community College, Dade City

PINELLAS COUNTY

Dunedin Elementary, Dunedin
 Clearview Avenue Elementary, St. Petersburg

Pasedena Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Clearwater Senior High, Clearwater
 Dunedin High, Dunedin
 Ridgecrest Elementary, Largo
 Oak Grove Middle, Clearwater
 Keswick Christian High, St. Petersburg
 San Jose Elementary, Dunedin
 Gulfport Elementary, Gulfport
 Largo Central Elementary, Largo
 Maximo Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Anona Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Tomlinson Adult Education Center, St. Petersburg
 North Ward, St. Petersburg
 Skycrest Elementary, Clearwater
 Boca Ciega High, St. Petersburg
 South Ward Elementary, Clearwater
 Forest Hills Kindergarten Center, Treasure Island
 Tyrone Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Bear Creek Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Shore Acres Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Clearwater Learning Resources Center,
 St. Petersburg
 St. Petersburg Junior College, Clearwater Campus,
 Clearwater
 Our Lady of Lourdes, Dunedin
 Largo Middle, Largo
 Campbell Park Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Dunedin Day School, Inc., Dunedin
 Disston Middle, St. Petersburg
 Morning Star, Pinellas Park
 Largo Senior High, Largo
 Melrose Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Grace Lutheran, St. Petersburg
 Madeira Beach Middle, Madeira Beach
 Bay Point Elementary, St. Petersburg
 Meadowlawn Middle, St. Petersburg
 Seminole Elementary, Seminole
 Lakewood Senior High, St. Petersburg
 Dunedin Highland Middle, St. Petersburg
 Bardmoor Elementary, Largo
 Belcher Elementary, Clearwater
 Plumb Elementary, Clearwater
 Sixteenth Street Middle, St. Petersburg
 Starkey Elementary, Seminole
 Blessed Sacrament Parochial Elementary, Seminole
 Lakewood Elementary, St. Petersburg

POLK COUNTY

Elbert Elementary, Winter Haven
 Janie Howard Wilson Elementary, Lake Wales
 Seth McKeel Junior High, Lakeland
 Southwest Elementary, Lakeland
 Lime Street Elementary, Lakeland
 Riverside Elementary, Fort Meade
 Highland City Elementary, Highland City

St. Joseph, Winter Haven
Medulla Elementary, Lakeland
North Lakeland Elementary, Lakeland
Carlton Palmore Elementary, Lakeland
Lakeland Christian, Lakeland
Kathleen Elementary, Kathleen
Caldwell Elementary, Auburndale
Brigham Elementary, Winter Haven
North Lakeland Elementary, Lakeland
Crystal Lake Junior High, Lakeland
Fort Meade Junior/Senior High, Fort Meade
Bartow Junior High, Bartow
Lake Wales Junior High, Lake Wales
Davenport Elementary, Davenport
Eastside Elementary, Haines City
Polk Vocational Technical Center, Eaton Park
Padgett Elementary, Lakeland
Kathleen Junior High, Kathleen
Babson Park Elementary, Babson Park
Hillcrest, Lake Wales
Auburndale Junior High, Auburndale
Inwood Elementary, Winter Haven
Gibbons Street Elementary, Bartow
Haines City Senior High, Haines City
Auburndale Senior High, Auburndale
Frostproof Elementary, Frostproof
Alta Vista Elementary, Haines City
Marion Lea Training, Lakeland
Golfview Junior High, Bartow
Lakeland Junior High, Lakeland
Roosevelt, Lake Wales
John Cox Elementary, Lakeland
Highlander, Lake Wales
Jesse Keen Elementary, Lakeland
Lincoln Avenue Elementary, Lakeland
Lake Alfred Primary, Lake Alfred
Polk Life and Learning Center, TMH, Bartow

PUTNAM COUNTY

Browning-Pearce Community, East Palatka
John W. Campbell Elementary, Palatka
James A. Long Elementary, Palatka

SANTA ROSA COUNTY

Pace High, Pace
Pace Middle, Pace
Allentown High, Milton
Pace Elementary, Milton
Bagdad Elementary, Bagdad
Berryhill Elementary, Milton
Hobbs Middle, Milton

SARASOTA COUNTY

Southside, Sarasota
Fruitville Elementary, Sarasota
Venice Elementary, Venice
Tuttle Elementary, Sarasota
Epiphany Catholic, Venice
Garden Elementary, Venice
Gocio Elementary, Sarasota

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley, Ponte Vedra Beach
Fullerwood Elementary, St. Augustine
St. Agnes, St. Augustine
Evelyn Hamblen Elementary, St. Augustine
Webster Sixth Grade Center, St. Augustine
Murray Seventh Grade Center, St. Augustine
Hasting High, Hastings
Orange Street Fifth Grade Center, St. Augustine
Ketterlinus Junior High, St. Augustine
Mill Creek, St. Augustine
Crookshank Elementary, St. Augustine
Hastings Elementary, Hastings

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Lawnwood Elementary, Fort Pierce
Lincoln Park, Fort Pierce
Fort Pierce Central High, Fort Pierce
Faith Christian, Fort Pierce
St. Andrews Episcopal, Fort Pierce
Frances K. Sweet, Fort Pierce

SEMINOLE COUNTY

Seminole Elementary, Sanford
South Seminole Middle, Casselberry
Sterling Park Elementary, Casselberry
Longwood Elementary, Longwood
Altamonte Elementary, Altamonte Springs
Seminole High, Sanford
Sanford Christian, Sanford
Rosenwald Exceptional Student Center,
Altamonte Springs
Jackson Heights Middle, Oveido

SUMTER COUNTY

Coleman Elementary, Coleman
South Sumter Middle, Webster
Bushnell Elementary, Bushnell

SUWANNEE COUNTY

Suwannee Primary School II, Live Oak

UNION COUNTY

Lake Butler Elementary, Lake Butler
Union County High, Lake Butler

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Osteen Elementary, Osteen
Pierson Elementary, Pierson
Edith I. Starke Elementary, Deland
Deland Junior High, Deland
Daytona Beach Community College,
Daytona Beach
New Smyrna Beach Senior High,
New Smyrna Beach

St. Paul’s, Daytona Beach
Faulkner Street Elementary, New Smyrna Beach
Read-Pattillo Elementary, New Smyrna Beach
Osceola Elementary, Ormond Beach
Holly Hill Junior High, Holly Hill
Chisholm Seventh Grade Center,
New Smyrna Beach
Lenox Elementary, Daytona Beach
South Ridgewood Elementary, Daytona Beach

WAKULLA COUNTY

Natural Bridge Elementary, St. Marks
Wakulla High, Medart

WALTON COUNTY

Paxton High, Paxton

Florida Bicentennial Trail Sites

The Florida Bicentennial Trail Sites are presented below in the order in which they appear in *The Florida Bicentennial Trail: A Heritage Revisited*. That order of appearance reflects the sites' chronological significance in the history of Florida. *Heritage Revisited*, a publication of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida, includes a description of each site's historic importance, illustrations, visitor information, and a locator map.

Crystal River Mound

Located in Crystal River, this site is comprised of a prehistoric mound complex interpreted by means of a state museum. The Crystal River site is one of the most archaeologically significant landmarks in Florida. The original Florida Indians settled the area, developed the mound complex about 500 B.C., and remained until 1500 A.D.

Fort Walton Temple Mound

Like the Crystal River site, Fort Walton Temple Mound stands as a monument to Florida's original Indian inhabitants. The occupants of this area remained through discovery (1513), leaving the site about 1700 A.D. The Fort Walton Temple Mound is a National Landmark.

DeSoto National Memorial

On May 30, 1539, Hernando de Soto landed on Florida's shores in the vicinity of Tampa. From there, he set forth into the interior of Florida and the lands to the north and west that would become a part of the United States. The expedition, one of the most extensive ever undertaken in North America, lasted four years and covered 4,000 miles. A visitor center offers exhibits portraying de Soto's accomplishments.

Fort Caroline National Memorial

Situated near present-day Jacksonville, Fort Caroline was constructed by the French in 1564. Spanish forces captured it in 1565, leading to the establishment of St. Augustine, the first permanent settlement in the United States. The reconstructed fort includes a visitor center.

Historic St. Augustine

Founded in 1565, forty-two years before Jamestown and fifty-five years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, St. Augustine is the first and oldest permanent European settlement in the continental United States. Much of the city's historic past is preserved in the Historic District.

Castillo de San Marcos

Located in St. Augustine, construction of the Castillo began in 1672 to meet continued threats of English invasion. The Castillo de San Marcos today recalls an important and unique part of Florida's heritage—a symbol of the long struggle among European nations for control of North America. It is one of the finest colonial monuments in the western hemisphere.

McLarty State Museum

About thirty-five miles south of Cape Canaveral lie the remains of two Spanish treasure fleets destroyed by a hurricane in 1715. The state museum portrays the tale of the doomed fleets and the saga of Spanish treasure ships sailing the coast of Florida.

Historic Pensacola

Pensacola's Seville Square Historic District, encompassing thirty blocks in the old city area, reflects the city's long history and the Spanish, French and British influence that lasted from 1559 through 1821.

Fort George

In the waning years of the American Revolution, Spanish forces under General Galvez invaded West Florida and captured British Fort George, Pensacola's major defense. The 1781 battle spelled an end to English control over the Gulf Coast region. The restored fort is located in the heart of Pensacola.

Kingsley Plantation

Located on Fort George Island, north of Jacksonville, the plantation developed by Zephaniah Kingsley in 1817 became a commercial success. Among its uses was a center for training and trading of slaves. Although he was appointed to the Florida Legislative Council in 1823 by President James Monroe, Kingsley's life style, centered on his marriage to the African Anna Jai, resulted in increasing local criticism and resentment. Kingsley left Fort George Island in 1836 and died ten years later in New York City. Kingsley Plantation is a State Historic Site.

Fort Gadsden

Fort Gadsden, on the Apalachicola River, was first established by British agents in 1814. It soon became a base of operations for Indians and blacks raiding white settlements in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Despite Florida being under Spanish ownership, United States troops attacked and destroyed the fort in 1816, five years before the United States acquired Florida. Fort Gadsden is a State Historic Site and National Landmark.

Fort San Marcos de Apalachee

The history of Fort San Marcos began with the arrival of the Spanish explorers Narvaez (1528) and de Soto (1539). In 1818, although Florida was Spanish territory, General Andrew Jackson invaded Florida and captured Fort San Marcos along with two British agents, both of whom were executed at the fort. Located in Wakulla County, a state museum interprets the colorful story of Fort San Marcos.

Tallahassee, Seat of Government

The Capitol Center includes the original 1845 building and a new modern statehouse, seventeen major state buildings, the State Library, Archives and Museum of Florida History, and Cascades Park, a restored natural feature of the area as it appeared in 1824.

Historic Tallahassee

The location of Florida's first territorial and state capitol, Tallahassee remains the seat of government. Many significant sites and stately homes remain in the Historic District in testimony to 152 eventful years of history.

Historic Key West

Settlement of Key West occurred long before 1821, the year Florida became a United States territory. By 1845, Key West had become a leading seaport and commercial center in Florida. Through the years, Key West retained its unique charm, and the Historic District of the city looks much the same as it did one hundred years ago.

Cape Florida Lighthouse

The lighthouse on Key Biscayne was built in 1825 as part of a system to reduce the number of shipwrecks that occurred on Florida coasts. Destroyed by Indians in 1836 during the Second Seminole War, the structure was rebuilt in 1846. The Cape Florida Lighthouse is a State Historic Site.

Early Apalachicola

Founded as West Point in 1821, the city was renamed Apalachicola in 1831. The city became a thriving seaport based on the cotton industry in the mid-nineteenth century. It was the home of Dr. John Gorrie, who, as a result of his research into the cause and treatment of malaria, invented a process to make artificial ice. The State Museum and remaining old structures recall the city's past for visitors.

Dade Battlefield

On Dade Battlefield in December 1835, two months before the Battle of the Alamo and over forty years before Custer's defeat at Little Big horn, a bloody encounter occurred between United States troops and Seminole Indians. This battle marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), the costliest Indian war in terms of casualties and money in American history. Dade Battlefield, a State Historic Site in Sumter County, depicts the battle and the course of the war.

Bulow Plantation Ruins

The coquina ruins of Bulow Plantation (1821-1836) stand as testimony to a bygone era of magnificent frontier plantations in Florida, and to the destruction wrought during the Second Seminole War. The Ruins a State Historic Site, are located in Flagler County.

Fort Foster

Fort Foster was typical of Second Seminole War frontier fortifications. Upon reconstruction, the fort and camp area will portray military and camp life during the period 1835-1842. Fort Foster is a State Historic Site located about twenty miles north of Tampa.

Florida's First Constitution

The city of St. Joseph, present day Port St. Joe, was the site of the drafting and signing of Florida's first Constitution. The Constitutional Convention convened on December 3, 1839, and on January 11, 1840, the Constitution was passed. It was not until 1845 that Florida entered the Union. The site of Florida's First Constitution is commemorated by a State Historical Museum.

Cedar Key

Located on the west coast of Florida near the Suwannee River's mouth, Cedar Key was a thriving port before the War Between the States and site of a late nineteenth century lumber boom. A museum recalls the area's colorful past.

Historic Fernandina

The Historic District of Fernandina reflects a heritage of some 400 years. Fort Fernandina was established by Spain in 1685. The city became a flourishing seaport during Florida's territorial period and the early years of statehood.

Gamble Mansion

Located near Bradenton on Florida's west coast, the stately Gamble Mansion stands as a reminder of the economic and social milieu of the Southern plantation, a way of life swept away during the fury and devastation of the Civil War.

Stephen Foster Center

The Stephen Foster Center in White Springs, on the banks of the historic Suwannee River, was established in recognition of one of America's most popular composers. Foster's music recalls the romantic era of plantation life in Florida prior to the Civil War.

Florida's Land Grant College

Established in Ocala as the East Florida Seminary, Florida's first institution of higher education was founded in 1853. Transferred to Gainesville in 1866, the University of Florida became the first of two land grant colleges in the state.

East Martello Tower

The Tower on Key West was established in 1862 as a military post to defend the island against invasion and as a support base for nearby Fort Taylor. East Martello Tower now serves as a museum depicting the long history of Key West.

Fort Clinch

Located in Fernandina Beach, Fort Clinch was built as one of several United States coastal defense sites. Although it was never the scene of a major battle, Fort Clinch stands today as a reminder of Fernandina's colorful past.

Fort Pickens

Fort Pickens was built on Santa Rosa Island as the major defense facility protecting Pensacola. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Fort Pickens was the scene of an early engagement between Union and Confederate forces.

Olustee Battlefield

This State Historic Site, located near Lake City, was the location of the only major battle fought in Florida during the Civil War. The battle, fought in 1864, resulted in a Confederate victory.

Joseph E. Lee Memorial

The Joseph E. Lee Memorial was founded in Jacksonville to serve as a depository of historical materials relating to the contributions of blacks to Florida.

House of Refuge

Built as a haven for shipwrecked sailors, Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge, located near Stuart on the east coast, was established in 1875. The Refuge now serves as a museum portraying an important part of Florida's long maritime history.

Lake Kissimmee Cow Camp

Located near Lake Wales by Lake Kissimmee, the pioneer cow camp represents a tangible part of the lengthy history of Florida's cattle industry, which was established long before those in Texas and the southwest. Cattle, original buildings, and equipment reminiscent of the era are included in the park.

Forest Capital Museum

The State Museum, situated in Perry, south of Tallahassee, was developed to trace the history of Florida's lumber industry as well as to capsule "Florida Forestry, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Tampa Bay Hotel

Built by Henry Plant in the 1880s, Tampa Bay Hotel was opened in 1891 and became the west coast counterpart of the luxurious hotels built by Henry Flagler on the east coast. Sold to the City of Tampa in 1905, the hotel was leased to the University of Tampa in 1934.

Longwood Village

This small early Florida resort, developed in the 1880s and located just north of Orlando, became a fashionable winter resort for those who preferred the advantages offered by interior Florida. Many of the original structures of Longwood Village have been restored for the interest and pleasure of the present generation.

Whitehall

Henry Flagler, builder of the Florida East Coast Railroad, married Mary Lily Kenan in 1901, and, in keeping with the traditions of the wealthy at that time, presented his wife with Whitehall. Located in Palm Beach, the palatial home complemented the grand style of the area at the turn of the century. Whitehall has been restored to its past beauty and is open to the public.

Mary McLeod Bethune Home

Located on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, the home stands as a memorial to the life and accomplishments of Mary M. Bethune, an individual known and remembered for her leadership in black education and social, cultural and political advancement.

Vizcaya

Located in Miami, Vizcaya was built in 1912 by industrialist James Deering some years before the fabulous Florida land boom of the 1920s. The estate's Mediterranean architecture became the model for style that appeared in many later structures in Miami and Coral Gables. This restored and preserved landmark stands as a reminder of the early dynamic and opulent history of Florida.

Koreshan Unity Settlement

Of the several interesting religious and utopian communal movements in the United States in the late nineteenth century, none was more novel than the Koreshan Unity at Estero, south of Fort Myers. Established by Dr. Cyrus R. Teed, the Koreshan theory holds that mankind lived "in" the earth and not on it -- the Cellular Theory -- and in fact that the whole universe lay within the earth. The Koreshan Unity Settlement is a State Historic Site.

Thomas A. Edison Estate

At his winter estate in Fort Myers Thomas Alva Edison conducted many of his more significant research projects from 1886 through the 1920s. Edison's winter home and laboratory have been established as a museum depicting his many scientific contributions to the nation and world.

Florida Pioneer Museum

The Pioneer Museum in Florida City, south of Miami, portrays the early pioneer history of the area and the unique story of the building of the Overseas Railroad from Miami to Key West, 1905-1912.

Historic Ybor City

Established in 1885 in Tampa by Vincente Martinez Ybor, Ybor City became a leading center of the cigar industry, which was started in Cuba, relocated to Key West in 1869 upon the outbreak of the Cuban Revolution, and finally moved to Ybor City. The Historic District of Ybor City reflects the early cigar making activities and the cultural heritage of the area.

Tarpon Springs

The sponge industry came to Tarpon Springs in 1887 after beginning in Key West earlier in the century.

Tarpon Springs became the sponge capitol of America in the 1890s, an industry largely operated by people of Greek ancestry. Tarpon Springs and its Sponge Exchange and Docks still reflect the Greek cultural heritage and the history of an industry that has all but disappeared.

Everglades Reclamation

As a unique natural resource of Florida, the Everglades in South Florida has proved an invaluable asset to the state's economy. The value of the Everglades to Florida lay not only in the rich lands reclaimed by drainage, but also in its attraction as a unique natural setting for millions of visitors each year.

Okalee Seminole Indian Village

The Seminole Village, located on the Dania Indian Reservation near Hollywood, is operated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and depicts the tribal way of life from before the Seminole War (1835-42) to the present.

St. Petersburg

Founded by John C. Williams in 1876, St. Petersburg steadily grew as a resort center until the Great Depression of the 1930s. Following World War II, the city again became a popular resort and retirement center. The events and personalities that shaped St. Petersburg are brought to life in the St. Petersburg Historical Museum.

Ringling Museum of the Circus

When the circus came to town, it was an event that lingered in the minds of children and adults. "The Greatest Show on Earth" Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus is colorfully portrayed in the Museum of the Circus in Sarasota, which traces the history of the circus from the days of the Roman empire to the present.

Highlands Hammock CCC

One program established to combat the effects of the Great Depression was the Civilian Conservation Corps. The present day state parks system grew out of the activities of the CCC in Florida. For example, Highlands Hammock State Park, near Sebring, was originally developed through the work of the CCC.

Everglades National Park

Occupying 1,400,533 acres of land and water in southern Florida, Everglades National Park was created in 1947. It was the successful culmination of a long campaign to preserve the Everglades. At the Visitor Center in Flamingo, interpretive displays portray the Everglades--a world of blending colors populated by wildlife of every description.

Naval Aviation Museum

The museum at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola narrates the story of naval aviation from 1911 to the present. Aircraft on display and photographs of all phases of aviation effectively provide the visitor with an exciting and colorful experience.

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Located at Cape Canaveral, an area whose history dates back to 1513, the Kennedy Space Center has been since 1960 the launching area for America's exploration of space.

Florida Patriots

FLORIDA PATRIOTS	SELECTED FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AREA(S) OF:
Dr. Hugh Adams Fort Lauderdale	Education
Mr. Joseph B. Allen, Jr. Key West	Historic Preservation
Mr. Carlos Arboleya Miami	Business
Mr. Art Barker Fort Lauderdale	Human Relations
Mrs. Jeanne Bellamy Winter Park	Business
Representative Charles E. Bennett Jacksonville	Government
Dr. Michael M. Bennett St. Petersburg	Education
Mrs. Charles H. Blanchard, Sr. Pensacola	Public Service
Mr. John W. Bowden Jacksonville	Labor
Mr. Joseph L. Brechner Orlando	Human Relations
Mrs. Marjorie Carr Micanopy	Conservation
Mr. E. W. Carswell Chipley	Journalism
Mr. Owen T. “Casey” Cason Tallahassee	Law Enforcement
Mr. LeRoy Collins Tallahassee	Government, Law, Human Relations Business, Literature
Honorable Doyle Conner Tallahassee	Government, Agriculture
Mrs. Esther H. Connolly Monticello	Historic Preservation
Mr. Alfonso Cremata & Mr. Salvador Ugarte (joint award) Miami	Arts

Mr. Talbot D'Alemberte Miami	Government
Dr. Manning J. Dauer Gainesville	Education
Mr. Herbert M. Davidson Daytona Beach	Journalism
Mr. Tippen Davidson Daytona Beach	Music
Mrs. Marjory Stoneman Douglas Miami	Journalism, Conservation
Mr. Hampton Dunn Tampa	Journalism, Education
Mrs. Betty Edwards Clearwater	Human Relations
Ms. Chris Evert Fort Lauderdale	Recreation
Dr. J. Brown Farrior Tampa	Medicine
Miss Lourdes Fernandez Miami	Human Relations
Mr. Edwin Hall Finlayson Greenville	Agriculture
Mrs. Thelma G. Flanagan Tallahassee	Health, Education
Mr. Carlisle Floyd Tallahassee	Music
Dr. George A. Foster Tallahassee	Religion, Human Relations
Mr. Max Friedson Miami	Human Relations
Mr. A. S. "Jake" Gaither Tallahassee	Education
Father Theodore R. Gibson Miami	Religion, Human Relations
Mrs. Dorothy W. Glisson Tallahassee	Government
Dr. E. Urner Goodman Penney Farms	Human Relations

Mr. E. W. Hopkins Pensacola	Human Relations
Mr. William Horan Leesburg	Recreation, Athletics, Patriotism
Judge Doris Householder Daytona Beach	Human Relations
Mr. Malcolm Johnson Tallahassee	Journalism, Human Relations, Conservation
Mrs. Corrine H. Jones Pensacola	Recreation, Athletics
Mrs. Betty Mae Jumper Hollywood	Government
Mr. James Keat Hollywood	Recreation
Mr. P. Scott Linder Lakeland	Business
Mr. Larry Little Miami	Human Relations
Senator K. H. “Buddy” MacKay Ocala	Government, Athletics
Mr. Earl McCrary Daytona Beach	Education, Human Relations
Reverend D. F. Montgomery, Sr. Lake City	Recreation, Athletics, Religion
Dr. Richard V. Moore Daytona Beach	Education
Mr. Allen Morris Tallahassee	History
Mrs. Jessie Porter Newton Key West	Historic Preservation
Mr. John F. Nicholson Ocala	Government
Mrs. Carolyn Pearce Coral Gables	Education
Mr. John D. Pennekamp Miami	Journalism, Conservation
Dr. James Pleitz Pensacola	Religion

Mr. Neil Ryan Titusville	Theater
Mrs. Marjorie M. Schuck St. Petersburg	Art, Business, Literature
Mr. Ernest E. Seiler Miami	Recreation, Athletics
Representative Robert F. Sikes Crestview	Government
Mr. George A. Smathers Washington, D.C.	Government
Mr. Chesterfield Smith Lakeland	Law
Dr. James Archer Smith Homestead	Medicine, Human Relations
Miss Dena Snodgrass Jacksonville	Historic Preservation
Dr. Mode L. Stone Tallahassee	Education
Judge Hugh M. Taylor Quincy	Law, Government
Ms. Francena B. Thomas Miami	Journalism, Human Relations
Dr. Charles T. Thrift, Jr. Lakeland	Education
Mrs. Elizabeth Towers Jacksonville	Education
Mr. Thornton Utz Sarasota	Art
Dr. James L. Wattenbarger Gainesville	Education
Mr. J. Edwin White Tallahassee	Business
Mr. Mitchell Wolfson Miami	Business, Community Service, Historic Preservation
Dr. E. T. York Tallahassee	Education, Agriculture
Mr. Nelson Paul Poynter St. Petersburg	Journalism
Mr. Alan Radcliff Coconut Grove	Arts
Mr. Ralph Renick Miami	Journalism

Bicentennial Communities, Campuses and Armed Forces Installations and Commands

Counties:

Alachua	Franklin	Pasco
Baker	Hernando	Pinellas
Brevard	Hillsborough	Polk
Broward	Holmes	Seminole
Charlotte	Lee	Saint Johns
Citrus	Levy	Suwannee
Clay	Madison	Volusia
Collier	Martin	Wakulla
Columbia	Orange	Walton
Dade	Osceola	Washington
Escambia	Palm Beach	

Cities and Towns:

Alachua	Fort Lauderdale	Largo
Altamonte Springs	Fort Meade	Lauderdale Lakes
Archer	Fort Myers	Leesburg
Auburndale	Fort Myers Beach	Lehigh Acres
Barefoot Bay/Micco	Fort Walton Beach	Leon County/
Bartow	Fruitland Park	Tallahassee
Belle Glade	Gainesville	Lighthouse Point
Belle Isle	Geneva	Longboat Key
Belleair	Green Cove Springs	Longboat
Biscayne Park	Greenacres City	Lutz
Boca Raton	Gulfport	Madeira Beach
Boynton Beach	Haines City	Margate
Brandon	Hallandale	Melbourne
Bronson	Hawthorne	Melbourne Beach
Cape Canaveral	High Springs	Miami
Cape Coral	Hollywood	Miami Springs
Casselberry	Homestead	Micanopy
Cedar Key	Indialantic	Middleburg
Chiefland	Indian Harbour Beach	Mulberry
Clearwater	Inverness	New Smyrna Beach
Clermont	Jacksonville	Newberry
Cocoa Beach	Jensen Beach/Rio/	Niceville/Valparaiso
Coconut Creek	Ocean Breeze Park	North Lauderdale
Cooper City	Jupiter/Tequesta	North Miami
Coral Springs	Kenneth City	North Palm Beach
Crescent City	Key West/	Oakland Park
Crystal River	Monroe County	Oconee
Davie	Keystone Heights	Okeechobee County/
Daytona Beach Shores	Lake Alfred	Okeechobee
DeLand	Lake Mary	Oldsmar
Deerfield Beach	Lake Placid	Orange Park
Delray Beach	Lake Wales	Orlando
Dunedin	Lake Worth	Ormond Beach
Edgewater	Lakeland	Oviedo
Floral City	Lantana	Pahokee

Palm Beach	Seminole	Titusville
Palm Beach Gardens	South Bay	Treasure Island
Palm Springs	South Daytona	Venice
Pembroke Pines	South Pasadena	Waldo
Penney Farms	St. Augustine	West Palm Beach
Pensacola	St. Petersburg	White Springs
Pinellas Park	Stuart	Wilbur-by-the-Sea
Plant City	Sun City Center	Williston
Plantation	Sunrise	Wilton Manors
Pompano Beach	Tampa	Winter Haven
Port Orange	Tarpon Springs	Winter Park
Riviera Beach	Tavares	Winter Springs
San Antonio	Temple Terrace	Yankeetown/Inglis
Sanford	The Moorings	Zephyrhills
Sanibel Island		

Colleges and Campuses:

Barry College	Pasco-Hernando Community College- West Campus
Biscayne College	Santa Fe Community College
Brevard Community College	University of Florida
Broward Community College	University of Miami
Daytona Beach Community College	University of North Florida
Edison Community College	University of South Florida
Flagler College	University of Tampa
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University	University of West Florida
Florida Atlantic University	Valencia Community College
Florida College	Warner Southern College
Florida Institute of Technology	Webber College
Florida International University	Jacksonville University
Florida Keys Community College	Lake Sumter Community College
Florida Southern College	Miami-Dade Community College- Downtown Campus
Florida State University	Miami-Dade Community College- North Campus
Florida Technological University	Okaloosa Walton Junior College College
Gulf Coast Community College	Palm Beach Junior College
Hillsborough Community College	
Indian River Community College	
Pasco-Hernando Community College- Hernando Center	
Pasco-Hernando Community College- East Campus	

Armed Forces Installations and Commands:

4th AMPHIB Tractor Batt Force, TRPS,
FMF, USMCR, Jacksonville

679th USAF GATR, Jacksonville

Attack Squadron Forty-Six, USN, Jacksonville

Coast Guard Station, Miami (Opa Locka)

Coast Guard Air Station, St. Petersburg

Coast Guard Loran A/C Station, Jupiter

Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Jacksonville

Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach

Fleet Training Center, Mayport

Headquarters, Naval Educational and
Training Command, Pensacola

Homestead Air Force Base, Homestead

Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton Beach

MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa

Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville

Naval Aerospace and Regional Medical Center,
Pensacola

Naval Air Reserve Unit, Jacksonville

Naval Air Station, Key West

Naval Air Station, Pensacola

Naval Aviation Schools Command, Pensacola

Naval Technical Training Center,
Corry Station, Pensacola

Naval Training Center, Orlando

Navy Recruit Training Command, Orlando

Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach

Patrol Squadron Fifty-Six, USN, Jacksonville

Seventh Coast Guard District Office, Miami

Training Squadron Ten, Pensacola

Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless,
(WMEC-624), Miami Beach

USS Dominant, (MSO-431), St. Petersburg

USS Kalamazoo, (AOR-6), Mayport

USS Lexington, (CVT-16), Pensacola

USS Paul, (FF-1080), Mayport

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 1971-72
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(Ending June 30, 1972)

Receipts:	
Pari-Mutuel	\$361,576.81
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$361,576.81</u>
Expenditures:	
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 58,141.48
Contractual Services	15,000.72
Expenses	
Supplies	14,300.53
Communications	4,822.20
Travel	12,399.27
Equipment Expense	1,552.14
Grants & Aids	150,130.00
Operating Capital Outlay	4,280.53
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$260,626.87</u>

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 1972-73
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(Ending June 30, 1973)

Receipts:

Pari-Mutuel	\$647,085.14
Federal Funds	45,000.00
Franklin Mint Royalties	7,983.75
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$700,068.89</u>

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 78,097.98
Contractual Services	85,899.84
Expenses	
Supplies	22,863.88
Communications	6,182.18
Travel	18,830.36
Equipment Rent & Expense	2,675.52
Premises Rent & Expense	10,699.72
Miscellaneous	1,804.03
Grants & Aids	414,768.14
Operating Capital Outlay	2,264.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$644,085.65</u>

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 1973-74
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(Ending June 30, 1974)

Receipts:

Pari-Mutuel	\$793,457.26
Federal Funds	85,000.00
Franklin Mint Royalties	24,950.97
Returns on Unused Grant Funds	1,030.00
Miscellaneous	1,338.30

Total

\$905,776.53

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 80,083.71
Contractual Services	15,542.00
Expenses	
Supplies	2,182.84
Communications and Printing	10,221.90
Travel	19,439.65
Equipment & Premises Rent & Expense	13,061.80
Miscellaneous	1,147.11
Grants & Aids	443,361.00
Operating Capital Outlay	2,714.63
Purchase of Investments	100,00.00
Transfer to Department of Commerce for Administrative Expense	7,000.00

Total

\$694,754.64

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 1974-75
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
(Ending June 30, 1975)

Receipts:

Pari-Mutuel	\$ 759,181.59
Federal Funds	165,000.00
Lincoln Mint Royalties	8,199.85
Franklin Mint Royalties	74,446.00
Wilton Brass Company Royalties	119.40
Florida Bankers Association Royalties	8,034.00
Interest on Investments	1,343.43
Sale of Commemorative Items in Prior Years	909.02
Refunds and Miscellaneous	1,380.90
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,018,614.19</u>

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	\$ 79,098.20
Contractual Services	47,931.73
Expenses	
Supplies	3,123.09
Communications & Printing	17,342.58
Travel	28,963.81
Equipment & Premises Rent & Expense	20,255.64
Miscellaneous	1,160.91
Grants & Aids	714,492.56
Operating Capital Outlay	1,004.53
Movie Production	38,100.00
Reissues	1,375.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 952,848.05</u>

Financial Summary

FISCAL YEAR 1975-76 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Ending June 30, 1976)

Receipts

Pari-mutual	\$ 862,596.14
Federal Funds	175,000.00
Lincoln Mint Royalties	3,860.50
Franklin Mint Royalties	14,999.00
Wilton Brass Co. Royalties	640.15
Florida Bankers Association	1,630.00
Worth International, Inc. Royalties	3,065.30
Commemorations Press Royalties	184.85
Miscellaneous	317.98

Total \$1,062,273.92

Expenditures:

Salaries and Benefits	101,813.81
Contractual services	42,718
Expenses	
Supplies	17,791.26
Communications	49,060.69
Printing	48,060.66
Travel	37,182.04
Equipment rent & expense	8,540.14
Premises Rent	14,231.04
Miscellaneous	4,102.43
Grants & Aids	864,603
Operating Capital Outlay	500.00
Purchase of Investments	
Task Force on Tourism	124,280
Transfers to Department of Commerce for Administrative Expense	28,524
Reissues	1,690

Total \$1,278,151.61

Approved Budget

FISCAL YEAR 1976-77*
APPROVED BUDGET
(Ending June 30, 1977)

Receipts:**	
Pari-Mutuel	\$307,739.23
Federal Funds	55,000.00
Royalties and Miscellaneous	37,264.69
Total	
	\$400,003.92
Expenditures:	
Salaries and Benefits	91,273.00
Contractual Services	54,123.00
Expenses	
Supplies	5,500.00
Communications	19,000.00
Printing	4,500.00
Travel	36,000.00
Equipment Rent & Expense	9,500.00
Premises Rent	14,722.00
Miscellaneous	6,001.00
Grants & Aids	630,000.00***
Total	
	\$886,619.00

*As of the date this report was prepared, final receipts and expenditures for fiscal year 1976-77 were not available. The figures provided represent spending authority alone, and not actual expenditures. A final report of Commission finances will be prepared upon transfer of remaining trust fund monies to the general treasury.

**The figures are derived from internal Commission records and are unaudited.

***As of May 21, 1977, \$460,420.31 was expended for grants and aids.

Bicentennial Recordkeeping: The Archival Process

Records of Florida's Bicentennial are plentiful, and will be readily available to future scholars and others interested in the celebration.

State statute mandates that records of the observance be deposited with the state archives. Therefore, the Commission will turn over all its documents, which begin with its activities in 1970 and end with this final report, to the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. In addition, newspaper clippings concerning Bicentennial activities throughout Florida have been compiled for the past five years, microfilmed, and deposited with the Division of Archives.

Likewise, county Bicentennial records are abundant, including correspondence with the Commission and other organizations, financial data, scrapbooks of pictures and photographs, brochures describing various programs, and newspaper clippings. Some counties also prepared final reports detailing local Bicentennial activities. The Action '76 steering committees sent all these materials to the Commission for transmittal to the state archives. To insure that every area's records would be deposited with the Division of Archives, members of the Commission staff journeyed to various counties to collect the documents.

Collier, Dade, Duval and Escambia counties, which all staged elaborate commemorations, expressed a desire to deposit their records with local institutions. Accordingly, the Commission requested and received permission from the Division of Archives to allow those four counties to retain their documents. However, before the records were sent to the local depositories, the Commission archivist undertook a careful inventory of each county's materials. Collier then deposited its records with the Collier County Historical Society. Duval transmitted its records to the Jacksonville Historical Society. Escambia sent its materials to the library at the University of West Florida. The Dade documents were divided among three repositories: pictures and photographs went to the Florida Room of the Miami Public Library, business records were retained by the Miami-Dade County Chamber of Commerce, and other historical records went to the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

Besides reports and correspondence, county and Commission records contain a wealth of Bicentennial memorabilia and historical data. Trophies, flags, license tags, pamphlets, newspapers, books (including numerous county and local histories), comical and serious pictures and dog-eared financial ledgers are among Florida's Bicentennial lore that will be available to the public at the state archives and at repositories in Collier, Dade, Duval, and Escambia counties.

Members of the Commission

Statutory Members:

Governor Reubin O'D. Askew, Honorary Chairman
(1971 to 1977)

Lieutenant Governor J. H. Williams, Chairman
(1975 to 1977)

Bruce A. Smathers, Secretary of State (1975 to 1977)

Ralph D. Turlington, Commissioner of Education
(1974 to 1977)

Robert Williams, Director, Division of Archives,
History, and Records Management, Department
of State (1970 to 1977)

Ney C. Landrum, Director, Division of Recreation
and Parks, Department of Natural Resources
(1970 to 1977)

James J. Gardener, Board of Regents (1975 to 1977)

Edward J. Trombetta, Secretary of Commerce
(1975 to 1977)

Senate Members:

Jim Glisson, Tavares (1973 to 1977)

Mattox Hair, Jacksonville (1974 to 1977)

Richard R. Renick, Coral Gables (1974 to 1977)

Alan Trask, Fort Meade (1970 to 1977)

House Members:

Dick J. Batchelor, Orlando (1974 to 1977)

A. H. Craig, St. Augustine (1970 to 1977)

Thomas L. Hazouri, Jacksonville (1974 to 1977)

Public Members:

Harold W. Stayman, Jr., West Palm Beach, Vice
Chairman (1972 to 1977)

Johnnie Ruth Clarke, St. Petersburg (1971 to 1977)

Elvin L. Martinez, Tampa (1976 to 1977)

Minerva Mason, Jacksonville (1974 to 1977)

Carl C. Mertins, Jr., Pensacola (1975 to 1977)

W. E. Potter, Orlando (1970 to 1977)

F. Blair Reeves, Gainesville (1971 to 1977)

Myrna Shevin, Tallahassee (1975 to 1977)

Don Shoemaker, Miami (1971 to 1977)

William S. Turnbull (1975 to 1977)

Past Statutory Members:

**Tom Adams, Secretary of State and Lieutenant Governor
(1970 to 1975)**

**Floyd T. Christian, Commissioner of Education
(1971 to 1974)**

Dorothy W. Glisson, Secretary of State (1974 to 1975)

Claude R. Kirk, Jr., Governor (1970 to 1971)

Ray C. Osborne, Lieutenant Governor (1970 to 1971)

J. F. Parker, Jr., Board of Regents (1970 to 1972)

Carolyn Pearce, Board of Regents (1972 to 1975)

Don L. Spicer, Secretary of Commerce (1973 to 1975)

Richard B. Stone, Secretary of State (1971 to 1974)

Past Senate Members:

W. D. Childers, Pensacola (1973 to 1974)

Jack D. Gordon, Miami Beach (1972 to 1974)

Warren S. Henderson, Sarasota (1970 to 1973)

Beth Johnson, Cocoa Beach (1971 to 1972)

Verle A. Pope, St. Augustine (1970 to 1972)

Bob Saunders, Gainesville (1970 to 1972)

J. H. Williams, Ocala (1970 to 1971)

Sherman S. Winn, Miami (1972 to 1973)

Past House Members:

**George I. Baumgartner, North Miami Beach
(1970 to 1974)**

Robert C. Hartnett, South Miami (1970 to 1972)

Richard S. Hodes, Tampa (1973 to 1974)

Joe Lang Kershaw, Miami (1970 to 1974)

Ted Randell, Fort Myers (1970 to 1974)

Jane W. Robinson, Cocoa (1974 to 1976)

Mary L. Singleton, Jacksonville (1974 to 1976)

Past Public Members:

Patricia Born, Pensacola (1971)

Henry Dartigalongue, Jacksonville (1971 to 1974)

Mayhew W. "Pat" Dodson, Pensacola (1971 to 1975)

Dick Greco, Tampa (1970 to 1972)

Charles E. Perry, Miami (1971 to 1975)

Samuel Proctor, Gainesville (1971 to 1975)

George E. Saunders, Orlando (1971 to 1975)

Staff of the Commission

1976-77 Staff Members:

William R. Adams, Executive Director

Dorothea H. Driggs, Assistant Director

Marsha B. Robinson, Secretary

William H. Adler, Information Officer

Administrative:

Annelle K. Blanchett

William A. Buckley, Jr.

Patricia C. Parrish

Secretarial:

Donna D. Beach

Kathleen L. Donovan

Charlsetta L. Johnson

Ina C. Stewart

Preparation of Final Report:

Christine S. Galbraith

Paul S. George

Michael G. Schene

Past Staff Members

Executive Director:

N. E. "Bill" Miller

Shelton Kemp

Don Pride

Administrative:

Joe E. Dexter

Eric S. Edelman

Glenda J. Fulmer

William F. Housner

Robert A. Hugli

Bruce A. McDonald

Michael B. Montgomery

Don Moody

William D. Owens

Junellen C. Pace

Paul R. Smith

Diane E. Thornton

William R. VanGelder

W. Keith Weekley

Gary Wetherington

Secretarial:

Patricia A. Barnes

Linda B. Boatright

Janet J. Bradford

Ruby D. Jordan

Mary A. Lovinfosse

Kathleen P. Lyons

Rosemary M. Maxwell

Footnotes

¹ Government officials enumerated in the act included the lieutenant governor, secretary of commerce, secretary of state, the director of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, the commissioner of education, the director of the Division of Recreation and Parks, and a member from the state Board of Regents.

² Salaries of Department of Commerce employees temporarily working for the Commission were paid by the latter agency. The Commission also reimbursed the Department of Commerce for any service that Commerce performed on its behalf.

³ Their comments can be found in Minutes of Organizational Meeting, on file at the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, R. A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida.

⁴ Potter was succeeded as vice chairman by Pat Dodson in March 1972, and the latter was succeeded by Harold W. Stayman, Jr. in March 1975.

⁵ See Appendix for a complete list of committee chairmen.

⁶ A total of \$741,464 was allocated to Interama and an affiliated organization, Third Century USA, whose program will be discussed in a subsequent section of this report.

⁷ The 1971 act limited the yearly revenue designated for the Commission to \$350,000; in 1972 this limit was deleted.

⁸ The first staff director was N. E. "Bill" Miller. He was succeeded in 1973 by Shelton Kemp, and the latter was in turn succeeded in 1975 by Don Pride. In late 1975 William R. Adams was appointed director and served out the remainder of the Commission's existence.

⁹ They were Health and Welfare Task Force, Public Safety Task Force, Cultural Task Force, Elementary and Secondary Education Task Force, Tourist and Historical Development Task Force, Design of the Community Task Force, Recreation Task Force, Economy Task Force, Transportation and Communication Task Force, and Higher and Continuing Education Task Force.

¹⁰ It was decided that population would be used in determining the amount of money that each county would receive. The funds were awarded on a matching basis.

¹¹ This section concentrates on the second category of grants; direct Commission activities are considered in other parts of the final report.

¹² In January 1976 the Budget Subcommittee consisted of Harold Stayman, Ney Landrum, Jane Robinson (who resigned from the Commission in mid-1976), Johnnie Ruth Clarke, and Myrna Shevin.

¹³ In 1969 the umbrella Governmental Reorganization Act made the Inter-American Center Authority an entity within the Department of Commerce. A few months later, however, the Authority was placed under the jurisdiction of Dade County.

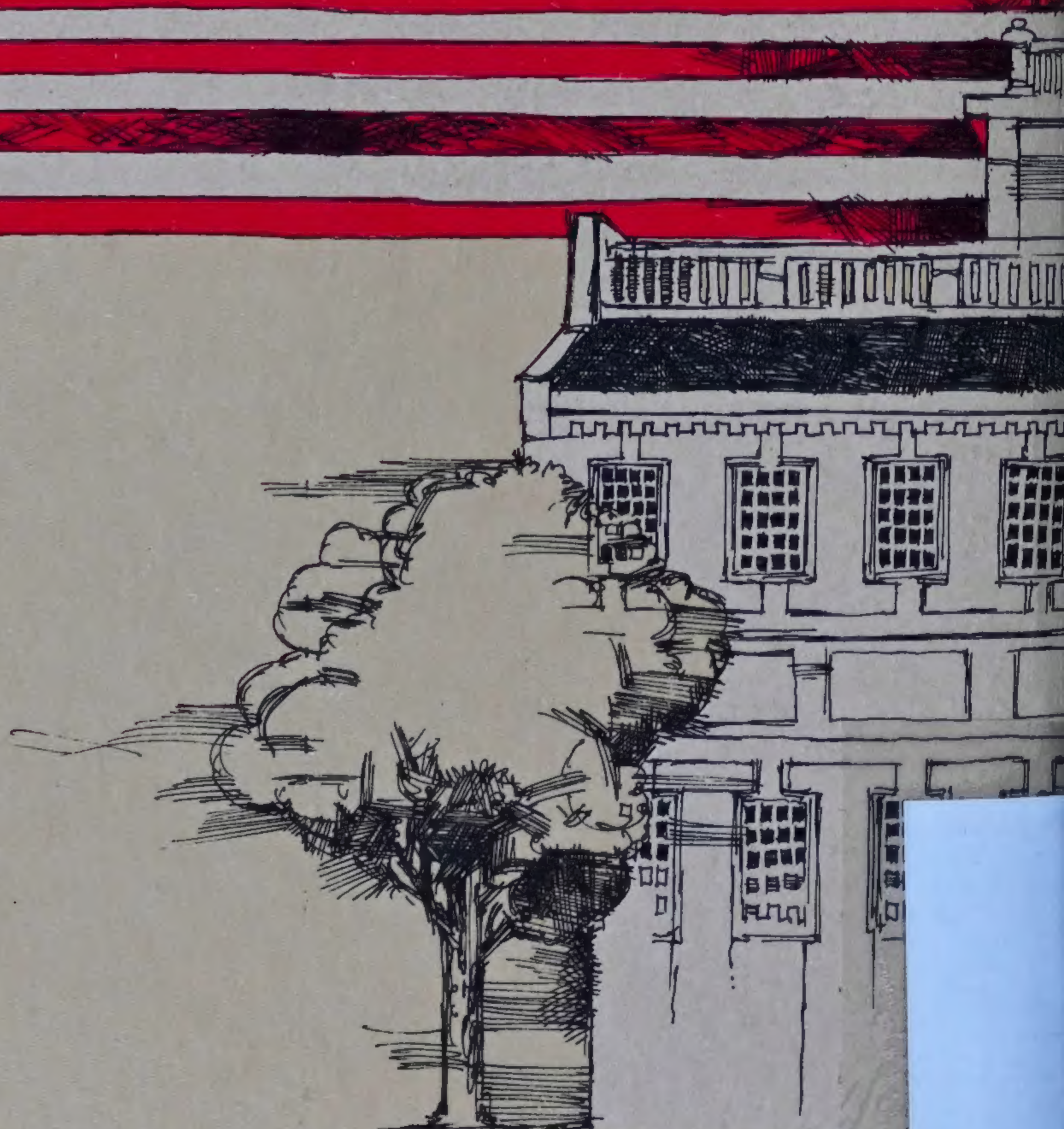
¹⁴ The Dade County Bicentennial program is described in the county histories section of this report.

¹⁵ A Third Century loan of \$69,000 to Interama paid for a portion of the consulting fee. The loan was repaid by Third Century USA.

¹⁶ The Garden of the Sun ultimately was to include the observation tower, the U.S. pavilion, the fiesta hall, the amphitheater, the Pyramid of the Sun, the Pavilion Geometrica, the Cinesphere, the Inter-American Bazaar, the scenic mini-rail, Funzania, the Inter-American trade center exhibition building, and the Inter-American waterfront park.

¹⁷ Discussion of other Commission assisted publications, including the five volumes of Symposia proceedings, *The Florida Bicentennial Trail: A Heritage Revisited*, and *Born of the Sun*, appear in other parts of the report. A complete list of publications is included in the appendix.

¹⁸ See appendix for a complete list of the facsimile titles.



The Bicentennial Commission of Florida

This publication was promulgated to conform with Florida Statutes 13.9974 and was produced at an annual cost of \$12,449 or a cost per copy of \$16.60.